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## PRESS RELEASE

The Do Not Contact advisory has been lifted for the City of Norwalk's Upper and Memorial reservoirs. Normal recreational activities may resume at all of the city's reservoirs.

Testing today (Monday) confirmed that the algal toxins in Upper and Memorial reservoirs have dissipated to non-detectable levels. No blue-green algae blooms are visible in any part of either reservoir. In addition, samples of reservoir water viewed under a microscope confirmed no significant harmful algae in either reservoir.

The no-contact advisory was issued last Tuesday after algal toxins were detected in Upper and Memorial reservoirs. At that time, Lower Reservoir was isolated from Memorial and Upper reservoirs. The city's drinking water is produced from water in Lower Reservoir. Testing throughout this event has repeatedly confirmed there have been no algal toxins in Lower Reservoir or the drinking water.

Under EPA protocol, Lower Reservoir will remain isolated from the others until another round of testing re-confirms the water is safe in all reservoirs.

Upper Reservoir was fully treated with copper twice last week to kill the harmful algae. Meanwhile, portions of Memorial Reservoir were spot treated each day Tuesday through Friday as blue-green algae appeared in various places. Staff decided not to apply copper to all of Memorial because there is an abundant amount of green algae, which is considered good algae. Green algae can help prevent blue-green from proliferating by taking up available nutrients. If the green algae would have been killed, it could have given the blue-green the opportunity to spread further.

The weekend's abundant rains likely helped flush the toxins from the reservoirs. But the rain also likely washed additional nutrients – phosphorus and nitrogen – into the reservoirs which may lead to further blooms the rest of summer. This year's bloom occurred seven weeks earlier than last year's, so further blooms this year would not be surprising.

Water plant personnel will check the reservoirs several times a week and take appropriate action to protect the drinking water. While the goal is to keep toxin-producing blue-green algae out of Lower Reservoir, the water plant is well-equipped to remove and/or inactivate the toxins, if necessary, using powdered activated carbon and sodium hypochlorite.

As conditions change, the public will be notified through the local media, the city website and the city's Facebook page. People with questions may call the water plant at 419/663-6725.