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For Immediate Release: Friday, August 28, 2020

Low Levels of Toxins Detected in The Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn's Raw Water

Results from samples collected on Thursday August 27, 2020 from the Town of Owasco's raw water have been received and reveal low levels of toxins associated with harmful algal blooms in the raw (untreated) water entering the Town of Owasco's treatment plant from Owasco Lake. The treatment system at the Town of Owasco successfully removed the toxins and **no toxins were detected in the samples taken of the treated drinking water.**

In addition, results from samples collected on Thursday August 27, 2020 reveal toxin levels associated with harmful algal blooms at .33 micrograms per liter in the City of Auburn's raw water. The treatment system at the City of Auburn successfully removed the toxins and **no toxins were detected in the samples taken of the treated drinking water.**

- Low levels of toxins are being referred to as such a small amount of toxins that the laboratory could detect them, but could not give a numeric value.
- The Town of Owasco provides water to Town of Owasco residents and the Town of Fleming Water District 1.
- The City of Auburn provides drinking water to residents in the City of Auburn, the Towns of Aurelius, Fleming Water District 6, Throop, Mentz, Brutus, Montezuma, Sennett, Springport Water District 2, and the Villages of Port Byron, Weedsport, and Cayuga.

It is important to note that the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco have two separate intake pipes located in two different spots of Owasco Lake. As a reminder, the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco have been sampling and monitoring their drinking water for harmful algal blooms since early August and will continue to do so.

In the future, we will not routinely issue press releases should samples reveal low levels of toxins in the raw water; however, **the public will be informed in the event that low levels of toxins are found in the public drinking water.**

If you think that a bloom may be harmful, report it through the: <https://nysdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae91142c812a4ab997ba739ed9723e6e> If you feel that you or your pets are experiencing symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, irritation of the skin, eyes, or respiratory system due to exposure to a harmful bloom please contact your health care provider or veterinarian.



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Results of our sampling can be found on the Health Department's website under the Harmful Algal Blooms tab, www.cayugacounty.us/health

If you have any questions, please call the Health Department at 315-253-1560.
