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For Immediate Release: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

**High Levels of Toxins Detected in the City of Auburn's Raw Water
And
Low Levels of Toxins Detected in the Town of Owasco's Raw Water**

High levels of toxins associated with harmful algal blooms have been detected in the City of Auburn's raw water entering their water treatment plants from samples collected on September 20, 2022. The level of toxins detected measured 17.7 parts per billion. This is an unprecedented level of toxins detected.

Low levels of toxins associated with harmful algal blooms have been detected in the Town of Owasco's raw water entering their water treatment plants from samples collected on September 20, 2022.

No toxins were detected in the samples taken of the treated drinking water from either system. The treatment systems designed to remove these toxins at the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco are currently operating.

- 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 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.
- The Town of Owasco provides drinking water to residents in the Town of Owasco and the Fleming Consolidated Water District.

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. The City of Auburn will be taking additional samples of the water tomorrow, September 22, 2022. As a reminder, the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco have been monitoring their drinking water for harmful algal blooms since early August and will continue to do so.

Now is a good time to make sure you and your family have enough water stored in case there was a water emergency. We are promoting the importance of having in storage 1 gallon of clean water for each person in your home. It is also recommended to have a minimum of a three-day supply stored in your home. A reminder:

- You **do not** need to go out and buy bottled water. You may bottle up public drinking water from your faucet.
 - If bottling your public drinking water, it is important to use only clean, food grade plastic or glass containers that seal tightly and replace your supply every six months.
- If using store-bought water, please be mindful that the New York State Department Health Department certification is on the product label.
- All bottled water should be stored in a cool location away from direct sunlight.

The Health Department will continue to monitor the water. Sample results can be found by clicking on the Harmful Algal Blooms tab on our homepage at www.cayugacounty.us/health. If you have any further questions, please call the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1560.
