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Public health advisory lifted for Dorena Reservoir

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Dorena Reservoir, located in Lane County, was lifted today by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Lane County Health Department and the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS).

The public health advisory went into effect on August 21, 2008.

Water sampling by the Corps of Engineers has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae that can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals, said Deanna Conners, Public Health Toxicologist with the Oregon DHS.

These reduced levels are not likely to be associated with dangerous toxin concentrations in the water, according to World Health Organization guidelines.

DHS advises people who recreate in Oregon water bodies to always be alert of signs of algal blooms. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible clumps of algae in the water.

For local information, contact the Corps' Willamette Valley Project park rangers at (541) 942-5631. For health information, contact DHS Environmental Health Specialists at (971) 673-0400. Additional information on blue-green algae can be found on the DHS Web site at <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/envtox/maadvisories.shtml>.

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