



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 10, 2020

Lake Hamilton Advisory

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment’s Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has confirmed a visibly present harmful algal bloom (HAB) on Lake Hamilton at the outlet of Little Mazarn Creek near Marion Anderson Road. Concentrations of the toxin microcystin from samples taken were 10 parts per billion (ppb), which is above the recommended human health criteria of 8 ppb. Exposure to these toxins may result in headaches, weakness, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea, liver damage, kidney damage, and abdominal pain. DEQ has notified the lake owner of the occurrence and of the laboratory results.

People and pets should avoid direct contact and avoid swallowing water in areas where HABs are present. A HAB looks like spilled paint, pea soup, floating scum, green sheens, clumps or streaks. Swimming, wading, and water activities are not recommended in the areas where this is visibly present.

If you suspect a HAB, avoid contact with the water and report it. Contact DEQ at habs@adeq.state.ar.us or call 501.682.0744. More information can be found on DEQ’s website: <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/pdfs/HAB-ResponsePlan-Manual-bookmarks-2019-12-12-Final.pdf>.

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