



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

06/25/2021

Harmful Algal Bloom Advisory for Poteau River

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment's (E&E) Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Advisory for the Poteau River between Highway 71 and Highway 80 West. Test results indicate samples contain potentially harmful algae (cyanobacteria) exceeding safe recreational levels.

The public is advised to avoid contact with the river in the affected area. Exposure to HAB toxins may result in headaches, weakness, shortness of breath, and gastrointestinal illnesses. People and pets are advised to avoid water activities that pose a risk of ingesting water or exposure to skin.

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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