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Blue-green Algae and Algal Toxicity: 2007 Summer of Concern in Central Indiana

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Blue-green algae and algal toxins are a concern for both recreational and drinking water resources. Research regarding the distribution and toxicity of blue-green algal blooms in Indiana and the Midwest, with particular emphasis on central Indiana drinking water reservoirs will be discussed. During the summer of 2007, blue-green algal concentrations in both Eagle Creek and Geist Reservoirs, and the detection of the algal toxin Microcystin in Geist Reservoir resulted in recreational usage advisories in both reservoirs. This presentation will provide a basic introduction to blue-green algae, their causes and impacts followed by an overview of blue-green algae in the Midwest. We will also discuss blue-green algal patterns in these reservoirs, the likely producers of the toxin, and compare Indiana information with information on algae and toxin occurrence in the Midwest.