

Cyanotoxins can be produced by cyanobacteria (formerly referred to as blue-green algae). When cyanobacteria reach bloom conditions these are referred to as Harmful Algae Blooms or HABs. Recent legislation passed the Drinking Water Protection Act, which will be part of the SDWA. This instructs EPA to build a strategic plan for assuring the safety of drinking water to protect public health. EPA will also work with states to assist in controlling HABs.

Maine Drinking Water Program is developing baseline data to characterize cyanobacteria conditions in Maine. Please participate by answering the following questions. Thank you.

Name _____ Name of System _____
Source(s) of system _____

1. Does your system monitor raw water for algae? ____ Yes ____ No
Where do you sample the raw water? _____
How often? _____
What types of analysis ____ Algae identification ____ Algae density or counts
____ Chlorophyll A ____ Phycocyanin
Other _____

2. Would your system be interested in working with other systems and DWP to develop a monitoring program for your utility and others?

Nutrients are the most likely source to enable or prompt a bloom.
Do you monitor your watershed for nutrient sources? ____ Yes ____ No
Do you monitor your raw water for nutrient levels? ____ Yes ____ No

Suggestions for state level assistance in cyanobacteria monitoring.

3. Have you observed cyanobacteria in the past 5 years? ____ Yes ____ No
Have you experienced a bloom (<2M visibility with secchi disc) ____ Yes ____ No
Other indications of bloom – raw water turbidity increases etc.
Localized floating masses ____ Yes ____ No. Describe locations _____

4. Would you know what to do if you experienced a cyanobacteria bloom?
____ Yes ____ No Comments _____

Discussion points
EPA Region 1 and Maine DWP wish to assist PWS with monitoring, treating and reporting of suspected HABs. In what ways might they help?