Public Water Supplies Optimize Treatment During Harmful Blue-green Algae Blooms (HABs)

Public drinking water is treated, disinfected, monitored, and optimized to address harmful blue-green algae blooms, their toxins and other water supply contaminants.

Source Water Monitoring
- Visually monitor and test for HABs and toxins.
- **During HABs** increase visual monitoring and testing of source water.

Water Intake
- Water passes through screens that remove large objects such as fish and leaves. Disinfection may be added as a pretreatment step.
- **During HABs** increase water testing at intake. Adjust any disinfection at intake to avoid releasing dissolved toxins.

Water Testing/Notification
- Makes sure that quality water is delivered and consumers are notified of problems.
- **During HABs** additional water testing and notification helps make sure that HABs and toxin are addressed throughout the distribution system.

Coagulation/Flocculation
- Chemicals are added causing particles to bind together forming “floc.”
- **During HABs** coagulant aids may be added that help bind and settle out bloom particles.

Sedimentation
- Water is held in the sedimentation tank so that floc settles out of the water.

Disinfection
- Chlorine or other disinfectant is added to destroy bacteria and viruses.
- **During HABs** disinfectant levels may be increased to destroy toxins.

Filtration
- Different kinds of filter media are used to remove dissolved materials from water.
- **During HABs** additional types of filter media may be added to absorb dissolved toxins.

Clean water is delivered to customers.

www.health.ny.gov/HarmfulAlgae