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ALGAE BLOOM NOT AFFECTING LOCAL DRINKING WATER

CINCINNATI – The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), together with various state agencies have confirmed the presence of algae blooms more than 25 miles upstream of Cincinnati.

“Drinking water from Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) is not affected by any algae blooms at this time,” said Cathy Bailey, Greater Cincinnati Water Works Interim Director. If blooms do occur in our area, GCWW is prepared to treat for contaminants associated with the bloom.

GCWW, ORSANCO, the Ohio EPA constantly monitor for harmful algae levels in the Ohio River, and the local community is not currently experiencing any problems with its drinking water.

The safety of drinking water is GCWW’s highest priority. “GCWW’s key objective is to keep drinking water safe and protect public health. GCWW has always met or exceeded all of the state and federal health standards for drinking water.” said Jeff Swertfeger, Superintendent of GCWW’s Water Quality & Treatment Division.

GCWW uses state-of-the-art water treatment processes that include multiple barriers to protect public health. GCWW’s Ohio River treatment plant in California, Ohio, uses sand filtration, Granular Activated Carbon (GAC), Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) and ultraviolet (UV) light to remove and treat for natural and man-made contaminants from our drinking water. Although GAC and PAC are two of the most effective methods of for removing contaminants found in algae, GCWW’s Ohio River treatment plant is one of the first in the nation to use a combination of all four treatment methods.

Although algae blooms in the Ohio River are uncommon, if they do occur, they are likely to be much milder than the extreme algae growth that sometimes occurs in lakes and ponds where water moves very slowly, as opposed to faster-flowing rivers.

For more information about Ohio Recreation Water Advisories go to: www.OhioAlgaeInfo.com