

Scott Nally
Director
Environmental Protection Agency

David Mustine
Director
Department of Natural Resources

James Zehringer
Director
Department of Agriculture

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CONTACT: Laura Jones, ODNR, (614) 265-6787
Dina Pierce, Ohio EPA (614) 644-2160
Andy Ware, ODA, (614) 752-9817

Preparations Underway for Alum Treatment at Grand Lake St. Marys

Nebraska company plans June 2 start date

A contract to apply aluminum sulfate at Grand Lake St. Marys was awarded to HAB Aquatic Solutions, LLC of Nebraska. The company is mobilizing equipment now and anticipates initiating the application process on June 2 and ending June 22. The alum application is one step in a multi-faceted, multi-year approach to improve the lake's water quality.

The \$3,456,932 contract is being funded through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and implemented by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. HAB Aquatic Solutions will focus the concentrated alum treatment on 4,900 surface acres of the central lake. This revised plan for the project takes into account the dynamic changes in water quality resulting from heavy rains in the area this spring.

State officials note that the community and lake visitors are likely to see increased tanker-truck traffic bound for the designated staging area at West Bank Boat Ramp. These tanker trucks will be delivering nearly 2,631,300 gallons of alum-based chemical, which is being supplied from plants in Ohio.

The state offers the following information about the alum treatment project:

- The public is asked to respect restricted areas at the West Bank Boat Ramp staging area for safety purposes.
- Two vessels with large application booms will stage from the West Bank Boat Ramp.
- Viewing the application process from shore will be difficult since the work will take place near the center of the lake.
- While watercrafts are not restricted in the application area, boaters are asked to give the application vessels wide berth and right of way as they move across the lake.
- The aluminum sulfate and sodium aluminate, when applied to the water, do not present a hazard to people or aquatic life. The buffered dose prevents changes in the water's pH that not only protects human and aquatic health, but helps reduce the possibility of damage to boat hulls.
- The Ohio EPA and U.S. Geological Survey will be monitoring water-quality information before, during and after the project.

Residents and visitors are reminded that this year's alum treatment is intended to help reduce the frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms at Grand Lake St. Marys. Dredging and rough fish removal, along with installation of a treatment train and other water quality initiatives continue – action steps the state and the lake community consider integral to helping improve the water quality of the 13,000-acre recreational lake in western Ohio.