



**FOR RELEASE:** October 30, 2014  
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### **Huron among First Recipients of State Grants to Purchase Cyanobacteria Monitoring Equipment for Drinking Water Plant**

Ohio EPA has awarded Huron one of the first grants to purchase testing equipment to monitor the city's drinking water supply for cyanobacteria. Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler was in Huron today to award the grant and discuss how the state and communities are cooperating to protect local water supplies.

"Huron is one of 23 public water systems that use Lake Erie as their source water. The city recognizes the need to watch lake conditions for harmful algal blooms and be proactive in monitoring its drinking water for toxins the blooms can produce," Director Butler said. "We encourage other communities to take advantage of this funding."

Cyanotoxins can be produced during harmful algal blooms on lakes, reservoirs and streams. Many communities are proactively sampling their raw and treated water for cyanotoxins. Ohio EPA has made \$1 million available in grants for up to \$10,000 per system to help purchase equipment and training. Huron received \$8,568.

Ohio EPA conducts sampling when public water systems do not have the means to test. However, having the ability to analyze samples at the local treatment plants rather than sending samples to Ohio EPA or another outside lab will allow a quicker treatment response to detections and target monitoring based on immediate conditions. Given the dynamic and unpredictable nature of cyanobacteria blooms, a quick response is critical.

Grants are available to any Ohio public water system using surface water as its drinking water source. Grant applications are being accepted through June 1, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

-30-

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*The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency was created in 1972 to consolidate efforts to protect and improve air quality, water quality and waste management in Ohio. Since then, air pollutants dropped by as much as 90 percent; large rivers meeting standards improved from 21 percent to 89 percent; and hundreds of polluting, open dumps were replaced with engineered landfills and an increased emphasis on waste reduction and recycling.*