



NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

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Contact: **Drew Goretzka**, Director of Communications
New Mexico Environment Department
505.670.8911 | drew.goretzka@env.nm.gov

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

NMED issues “Danger” algal bloom advisory at Charette Lake *Department warns visitors to avoid water contact*

MORA COUNTY — The New Mexico Environment Department today issued a “DANGER” warning for a harmful algae bloom at Charette Lake near Wagon Mound after samples collected confirmed algae toxin levels above the advisory threshold.

Harmful algae blooms occur when certain algae grow excessively in water, posing potential health risks to people and animals. The harmful blooms can appear blue, bright green, brown or red and may resemble scum or floating grass clippings on the water’s surface. These blooms can produce toxins that are harmful to humans and animals.

During a DANGER advisory for harmful algae blooms, NMED advises visitors to take the following precautions:

- Do not drink water or get the algae in your mouth.
- Do not swim, wade, paddleboard, boat or water ski.
- Keep dogs or other animals away.
- Eating fish at these toxin levels is not recommended, as the effects of harmful algae toxins in fish are not well understood. If you choose to fish, rinse fish with clean water prior to cooking thoroughly and eat only the fillet portion.
- If you suspect an algae-related illness, call the New Mexico Poison Information Center at (800) 222-1222. For illness in animals call (888) 426-4435 or the Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661

NMED will continue to monitor the bloom and associated toxins as resources allow. The department reminds the public: if the water smells bad or looks scummy — like grass clippings floating on the surface, thick like paint or pea-green, blue-green, or brownish red in color — it’s best to stay out. When in doubt, stay out.

More information about harmful algae can be found on the NMED’s [HAB Advisory Map](#) and [HABs Webpage](#). For any questions, please reach out to the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau Harmful Algal Bloom team at swqmonitoring@env.nm.gov.

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