

**Media Release**  
**Office of Mayor D. Michael Collins**  
**City of Toledo**  
**August 5, 2014**

**Water Remains Safe to Drink and Key Plant Repair Efforts Will Keep it That Way**  
***Residents Urged to Conserve and Reduce Water Usage Through Saturday***

TOLEDO – Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins urged Toledo and area residents to reduce water usage as the city conducts repairs at the Collins Park Water Treatment Plant to help address the current challenge faced by the blue-green algae bloom occurring in Lake Erie. Mayor Collins said that increased purification efforts at the water plant are addressing the effects of the algal bloom and that the repairs will support the plant’s ongoing ability to operate in a safe and sound condition, both now and over the long term.

“We’re getting through this challenge by working together and that teamwork will continue to serve us well. We all need to pull together now to reduce our water usage for the next four days in order to conduct some maintenance that will keep our water system in strong operating condition through the current algal bloom but over the long term as well,” said Collins.

City water crews are conducting repairs on one of the plant’s six “floculators” which mix raw water from the lake with treatment chemicals that help remove sediment and algae. The repair is expected to take four days. Even after these repairs are completed, the algal blooms in western basin of Lake Erie will continue. Please continue conservation efforts during the algal season, which typically continues into September.

Collins stressed that the situation is not a crisis, but that basic, commonsense water conservation steps that we should all be taking anyway will be a good precautionary move and help ease demand on the system. Water conservation measures that residents can take include:

- Avoid lawn-watering, turn off irrigation systems and avoid home car-washing
- Reduce home water usage by taking shorter showers, turning off the water promptly, washing only full loads of laundry and dishes, running washing machines and dishwashers on “efficiency” modes, and saving large water-using activities for low-demand times of the day, such as the evening;
- Please avoid other water uses that are not necessary;
- Other ideas can be found at: [www.epa.ohio.gov/watertips.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/watertips.aspx)

The Mayor’s office is also preparing correspondence to our state and Federal partners to request their assistance to address the water quality of the Lake Erie basin.