



Thursday, August 14, 2014

Ohio offers no-interest loans in water toxin fight

By: John Seewer

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) -- Ohio's environmental regulators laid out a plan Thursday to assist cities with testing and treating their drinking water, a first step in the state's response to a water emergency in Toledo that left 400,000 people without clean tap water.

The state also will commit just over \$1 million to help farmers add drainage systems and plant cover crops to reduce the amount of fertilizer that runs off their fields, dumping phosphorus into rivers and streams.

Story continued here: <http://www.ohio.com/news/politics/state/ohio-offers-no-interest-loans-in-water-toxin-fight-1.513686>

THE PLAIN DEALER

Thursday, August 14, 2014

Ohio targets toxic algal blooms in Lake Erie with new grants, loans and research

By Robert Higgs

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The state is offering \$150 million in zero-interest loans for improvements to public water systems and waste water treatment systems as part of an effort to address phosphorus pollution in the Lake Erie watershed.

The loans announced Thursday will be coupled with another \$1 million in grants through the state Environmental Protection Agency for local water

systems to obtain laboratory equipment needed to test for toxins found in algal blooms.

At the same time, the administration said it will put \$1.25 million toward a program to help farmers implement best-management practices to reduce levels of nutrient runoff from their fields.

"Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most precious resources and each day millions turn to it for drinking as well as their livelihoods," Gov. John Kasich said in a statement. "Ohio has been increasingly aggressive in protecting it and we're building on those efforts with new resources for those on the front lines of this battle. There's more work to be done and we're going to keep pushing forward."

Story continued here:

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/08/toxic_algal_blooms_in_lake_eri.html#incart_river

THE BLADE
toledoblade.com

Friday, August 15, 2014

Ohio provides \$150M in loans to fight algae

By: Tom Henry

Gov. John Kasich's administration on Thursday chose a Perrysburg Township farm as a backdrop to announce \$150 million in state loan money to help cities deal with expenses related to mitigating Lake Erie's toxic algae problem.

The state said the no-interest loans should help offset the costs of fixing municipal sewage systems and modernizing water-treatment plants. The event was the latest in response to the algae-induced Aug. 2-4 water crisis that made metro Toledo's tap water undrinkable and untouchable for that water system's 500,000 customers.

Much of the \$100 million the state has available for sewerage work comes from the federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund set each year by

Congress, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Craig Butler said.

Mr. Butler added, however, that the offer of 20-year state loans at zero percent interest should help communities afford to address sewage spills faster. In recent years, the money has been loaned at a rate of 3 percent.

Story continued at:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2014/08/15/Ohio-provides-150M-in-loans-to-fight-algae.html#DZ2bYHoeXisGe9st.99>



Thursday, August 14, 2014

Kasich announces efforts to help protect Lake Erie water

COLUMBUS – Today Gov. John R. Kasich and members of his Cabinet announced new multi-agency initiatives that make resources available to local communities and the agriculture community to help further strengthen protections for Lake Erie water quality and local drinking water supplies.

The initiatives were unveiled by the directors of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources at the Kris Swartz Farm in Perrysburg.

Story continued here: <http://www.13abc.com/story/26280384/kasich-announces-efforts-to-help-protect-lake-erie-water>