



Linda S. Adams  
Acting Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Division of Water Quality

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5455  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100  
FAX (916) 341-5463 • <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>



Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

March 11, 2011

Adam Bownik, Ph.D. Professor  
Department of Physiology and Ecotoxicology  
The John Paul II Catholic University of Lubin  
Lubin, Poland

Dear Professor Bownik:

### PEER REVIEW OF CYANOTOXIN TOXICITY CRITERIA AND HEALTH BASED WATER CONCENTRATIONS TO PROTECT HUMAN SWIMMERS, DOGS, AND CATTLE

The Cal/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has produced a report entitled "Toxicological Summary And Suggested Action Levels To Reduce Potential Adverse Health Effects Of Six Cyanotoxins" under contract to the State Water Resources Control Board. Congratulations on your selection as an external scientific peer reviewer for this project. The criteria in this report will very likely form the basis for regulatory actions such as CWA Section 303d listings, Total Maximum Daily Loads, and potentially conditions in NPDES Permits or Waste Discharge Requirements.

I will be managing the external scientific peer review of this report. OEHHA will not communicate with the approved reviewers, such as you, nor know their identities, until I send the reviews to OEHHA.

My letter today is intended to initiate the next phase of the external review - the actual reviews themselves.

Included with this letter are the following key documents:

- 1) The memorandum requesting external reviewers signed by me, to Dr. Gerald Bowes, Manager of the Cal/EPA's Scientific Peer Review Program; this memorandum was originally signed on July 11, 2010 but has now been revised to remove names of the OEHHA authors and their contact information;
- 2) Attachment 1 to the July 11, 2010 Memorandum, a Plain English Summary of the Cyanotoxin Exposure and Toxicity;
- 3) Attachment 2 to the July 11, 2010 Memorandum, a Description of Scientific

Issues to be addressed by Peer Reviewers. This version of Attachment 2 has been revised on March 4, 2011. Additional guidance item "c" has been added, stating that "you may comment on or make recommendations regarding the applicability of emerging technologies for more effective assessment of toxicity, or the potential for toxin production, in ambient waters." **Your reviews must follow the guidance provided in this attachment and must address the topics listed in the attachment, in the order given, as expertise allows;**

- 4) The Report to be Peer Reviewed - *Toxicological Summary And Suggested Action Levels To Reduce Potential Adverse Health Effects Of Six Cyanotoxins*; and
- 5) The January 7, 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines.

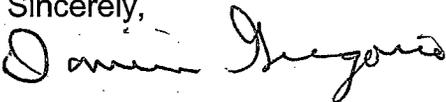
Please return your review directly to me. Questions about the review or review material should be for clarification, in writing (email is fine), and addressed to me. My responses will be in writing also. OEHHA should not be contacted. I will subsequently forward all reviews together to OEHHA with reviewers' CVs. All this information will be ultimately posted at the State Water Board Peer Review web site.

The State Water Board would appreciate your review being completed within 60 days after receipt of this material. If you need additional time, please tell me what you need to perform a thorough review given your other responsibilities at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 341-5488 or at [dgregorio@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dgregorio@waterboards.ca.gov). My alternate on this project is Ms. Kim Ward of my staff, who can be reached at (916) 341-5586 or at [kward@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kward@waterboards.ca.gov); please send a copy of all correspondence to Ms. Ward.

Your acceptance of this review assignment is most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dominic Gregorio  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Chief, Ocean Unit