



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Oberlin Water Division
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City of Oberlin Water Division Confirms that the Cause of the Drinking Water Issue is Not Harmful and Continues Working to Resolve It

OBERLIN, OHIO – (September 29, 2023) – On September 27, 2023, the City of Oberlin Water Division received lab confirmation that Oberlin’s drinking water is not harmful to consume. Lab testing has confirmed that toxins associated with a harmful algal bloom are below detectable limits. The unusual taste and odor is caused by the presence of an organic compound called Geosmin. Geosmin is a naturally occurring compound, which is highly detectable by odor and taste, even in extremely low amounts (10-30 parts per trillion).

The Water Division has modified its water treatment processes to address the taste and odor issue, most specifically with the addition of powdered activated carbon. With this treatment, Geosmin is adsorbed onto the carbon and effectively removed from the water. This process is not dissimilar from that of typical household water filters.

The Oberlin Water Division will continue to work with our consulting engineer and with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to monitor and resolve this issue. The City appreciates the Oberlin community’s patience during this time. For more information, please contact the Oberlin Water Division at 440-775-7291.

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