



DWQI
Treatment Subcommittee

Comments on the Subcommittee's
*Recommendation on
Cyanotoxin Treatment Options
in Drinking Water*

5/29/2025

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DWQI Treatment Subcommittee

Subcommittee

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The Treatment Subcommittee is responsible for evaluating best available treatment technologies, or methods, for removal of hazardous contaminants from drinking water.

Background

- In December 2021, the DWQI moved forward with developing a recommended maximum contaminant level, or MCL, for cyanotoxins, particularly microcystin, cylindrospermopsin, anatoxin-a, and saxitoxin.
- At the July 2, 2024, DWQI meeting, the Treatment Subcommittee presented the draft “Recommendation on Cyanotoxins Treatment Options in Drinking Water.”
- A public comment period was held from January 16 to March 17, 2025.
- One comment was submitted, which related to the draft Treatment Subcommittee Report.

Comment on Draft Report

On Prevention and Mitigation:

- “[G]reen stormwater infrastructure and nature-based solutions are low-cost treatment methods for cyanotoxins that introduce a wide range of co-benefits for ecosystems, stormwater management, carbon sequestration, and capturing suspended solids.”
- Examples outlined:
 - Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Similar Nature-Based Solutions as a Containment Strategy Against Nutrient Loading.
 - Enhance Water Flow and Oxygen Levels Through Strategic Dam Removal.
 - Shoreline Naturalization.
 - Cross-Program Coordination.

Response:

The Subcommittee reviewed this comment and agrees that nature-based solutions may be considered where applicable and appropriate for the individual water system and watershed.

The Subcommittee notes that the draft report outlines some of these strategies. Additional language has been added to the report to generally support nature-based solutions where appropriate.

The Subcommittee also notes that some of these recommendations, such as dam removal and cross-program coordination, are outside the charge of the DWQI as an advisory board.

Conclusion

- The Treatment Subcommittee made one amendment to the report based on the submitted comment, as described in the previous slide.
- The submitted comment does not alter the Subcommittee's final recommendations:
 - The Treatment Subcommittee concludes that cyanotoxins can be reliably and feasibly managed and/or removed by drinking water systems.
 - The Treatment Subcommittee recommends a treatment technique approach as a means to regulate cyanotoxins in New Jersey's drinking water.
 - Treatment should be optimized to fit the characteristics of individual systems, with a focus on a multi-barrier approach to treat cyanotoxins at different stages.
 - Treatment Subcommittee recommends exploration into the impact of cyanotoxins to private wells.