

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

Title: Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Prevention, Control, and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms (PCM HAB) Program

LOCATION: All coastal and near-shore habitats and territorial waters, including the Great Lakes

SUMMARY: Harmful algal blooms cause a wide variety of environmental, economic, and human health problems. The growing frequency and magnitude of harmful algal blooms has created a pressing need for in situ control in coastal waters. Field demonstration of harmful algal bloom control techniques is needed to fill the gap between laboratory research and implementation efforts. PCMHAB program proposes to provide funding for harmful algal bloom control and mitigation field demonstration projects. This PEA has been prepared to comply with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. § 4231 *et seq.*), as amended. The potential environmental effects associated with field demonstration projects under the Prevention, Control, and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms Program within the purview of NOAA (i.e., within coastal waters of the United States and the Great Lakes) were assessed in this PEA.

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The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting PEA is enclosed for your information.