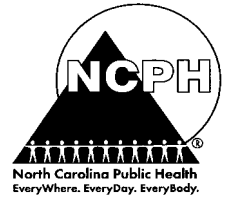




Lincoln County Health Department

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Margaret B. Dollar, M.Ed.
Health Director



PUBLIC NOTICE & PRESS RELEASE

Release date: June 30, 2017

RE: SWIMMING ADVISORY ISSUED

(LINCOLN COUNTY –South Fork River)

The Lincoln County Health Director issued a Swimming Advisory at 4:30 pm Friday, June 30, 2017 due to an animal waste pond spill into Potts Creek off Smith Road in Catawba County. An estimated 200,000 gallons of cattle waste has leaked into Potts Creek which feeds into the South Fork River in Lincoln County. Elevated levels (>2419.6 ml) of fecal coliform were detected at the intersection of Potts Creek and Reepsville Road in Catawba County. Currently there has been no detection of fecal coliform in South Fork River in Lincoln County, and the forecasted weekend precipitation for this area should dilute and decrease or weaken any fecal matter that may travel downstream. The Lincolnton Water treatment plant is currently operating as usual on stored water; therefore there is no public health concern for citizens who are on the public water system.

However, as a preventive measure, the health director in Lincoln is informing the public and advising all Lincoln County residents who use the South Fork River for recreation that this area may become contaminated with fecal coliform in the coming days. Residents and creek users are therefore advised to use their best judgment with regard to boating and swimming in the river. A swimming advisory sign is being posted this afternoon as a preventive measure at the main public access point along the river, which is at the trail head near 2677 Laboratory Road, Lincolnton. This press release is also being sent to all local media and to the county's website (www.lincolncounty.org/health).

Working closely with Catawba County and Gaston County public health agencies, this Lincoln County advisory is based on guidance from the Mooresville Regional Office of the NC Division of Water Resources, the NC Division of Environmental Quality, and the NC Department of Health and Human Services. This situation will continue to be monitored and additional information and guidance will be issued as it becomes available.

Margaret B. Dollar, M.Ed.
Lincoln County Health Director

06-30-17