

### LAKE WATEREE DRAW DOWN 2022-2023

DHEC is currently aware of an extensive bloom of *Lyngbya wollei* that is located in multiple areas on Lake Wateree. This alga produces a mat of material on the bottom of the lake that can float to the surface, and it's been found to be thickest in the shallower coves of the lake. *Lyngbya* has the potential to produce toxins that are irritants to humans. Currently there are no exceedances of the State algal toxin standards.

Construction at the Wateree Hydro Station is scheduled to begin in November 2022 and Lake Wateree will be between 6 and 7 feet below full pond. These lower lake levels could expose *Lyngbya* in cove areas that typically grow on the bottom of the lakebed. If you see this alga being exposed during the construction and lower lake levels, please avoid coming into contact with it. *Lyngbya* is extremely persistent, and we do not advise homeowners attempting to remove it. If removal is attempted, wear long sleeves, pants, and gloves to rake the material out to avoid direct contact with the mats. We also suggest bagging the *Lyngbya* and throwing it in the trash- do not burn it as it could cause any toxins present within the mat itself to be released into the air. The drawdown is expected to last 11 to 16 months.

For questions pertaining to *Lyngbya*, please contact SC DHEC's Harmful Algal Bloom hotline at 803-898-8437. For questions pertaining to the construction activities, please contact Duke Energy Lake Services at 800-443-5193.

