



## How Safe Is the Fluridone Treatment of *Hydrilla verticillata* in the Eno River?

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services was asked to conduct an evaluation of the potential health effects of the use of the herbicide fluridone in the Eno River in Orange and Durham counties.

### What is Fluridone?

It is a herbicide used to control the spread of the invasive plant *Hydrilla verticillata*. If left untreated, hydrilla could cause serious problems to native plants and animals. Eventually it can impact recreation and could block drinking water intakes.

Fluridone specifically targets the ability of the plants to produce pigment or color. This affects the plants ability to grow. For this herbicide to be effective at controlling hydrilla plants it has to be used for 45 to 90 days in a row during the summer months while the plant is growing. This has to be repeated for several years.

### What are the possible health effects associated with fluridone exposure?

It can have adverse health effects to the liver if you drink it at high doses for long periods of time.

### The Evaluation

We conducted a thorough evaluation of the potential health effects of the use of fluridone to control hydrilla in the Eno River.

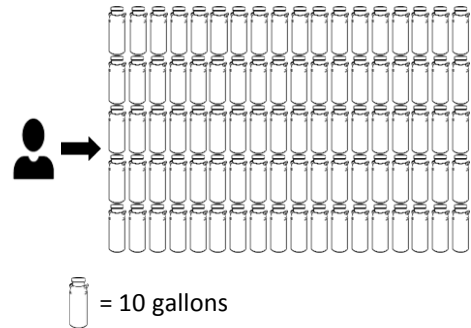
The evaluation looked at people who swim in the river, people who might accidentally drink some river water while swimming or playing in the river, and people who might eat fish from the river.

We looked at the maximum application rate allowed, which is 30 times higher than the amount applied at the Eno River.



## Results

- We found that even at the maximum allowed application rate, **fluridone is not expected to harm people's health.**
- Studies have shown that an adult drinking 940 gallons of fluridone-treated river water every day for several years would not show adverse health effects from fluridone. A child aged 2-6 years old could drink more than 230 gallons of treated river water daily without adverse health effects from fluridone.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q.** Will drinking water be affected?

**A.** No. There are no public drinking water intakes located in the treatment area. We never recommend using river water for drinking, cooking or bathing because of other things in the water that can make you sick.



**Q.** Can I use fluridone treated water for irrigation?

**A.** No. Fluridone treated water can affect your crops.

**Q.** Is it safe to eat fish caught in the Eno River?

**A.** Yes. You could eat several pounds of fish from the Eno River every day without adverse health effects from the fluridone.



(Photo courtesy of Terry Hackett)

**Q.** Is it safe for my children to swim in the river?

**A.** Yes. There are no anticipated risks to health for people using the river recreationally during fluridone treatment.



**Do not tamper with the herbicide drip infusion system.**

For more information  
919-707-5900

