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## LCDU planning additional safeguards against algal blooms

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Erie at this time.

Martin said there was only one time when some algae was found in central Lake Erie this year, but none of it was taken in by the county plants.

The blooms can have a detrimental effect on filters and other equipment at the water treatment plants and require the use of more activated carbon for water purification.

"The blooms aren't made up of true algae; they're actually a type of bacteria that can be toxic to humans, that's why they're such a concern," Martin said at the May 20 commissioners meeting.

In early July, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this year's harmful algal bloom season would be the most severe since 2011, which was the worst. According to NOAA, such algal blooms cause increased water treatment costs for communities, pose a health risk to swimmers and can be a nuisance for boaters.

For more information and mapping of the algal bloom, see the NOAA website at [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov).

LAKE COUNTY - The Lake County Department of Utilities began efforts to research improved procedures and equipment to deal with potential algal blooms since Toledo had to shut down its water services for several days in August 2014.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution Aug. 20 authorizing execution of an agreement with Environmental Engineering & Technology, Inc. for Aquarius Water Plant and Bacon Road Water Plant Carbon Feed Systems Study. The estimated cost of the study is \$45,000.

LCDU Director Rick Martin said, in setting up the protocol for dealing with harmful algal blooms on the lake, which might enter the county water treatment plant intakes, they realized they would need more carbon to properly treat such water.

"We're looking at how we can retrofit some new carbon facilities," he said.

Board President Dan Troy noted there was an algal bloom in western Lake