



Public Health Evaluations for Potential Exposures to Fluridone Used for Treatment of *Hydrilla verticillata* in the Eno River, Orange and Durham Counties, NC

Health Assessment, Consultation and Education (HACE) Program

NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health

Beth Dittman, Jamie Pritchett, Emily Earnest

Fluridone

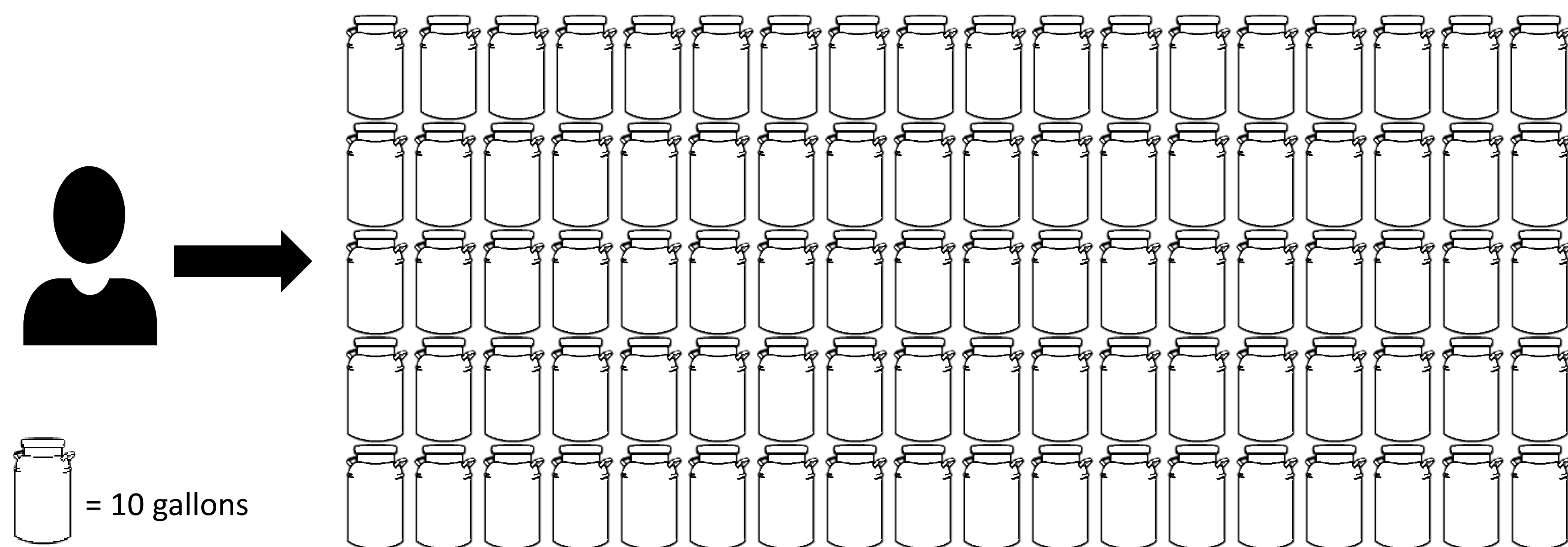
Conclusion: The use of fluridone in the Eno River, even at the maximum permissible application rate, is not expected to harm people's health.

What is fluridone?

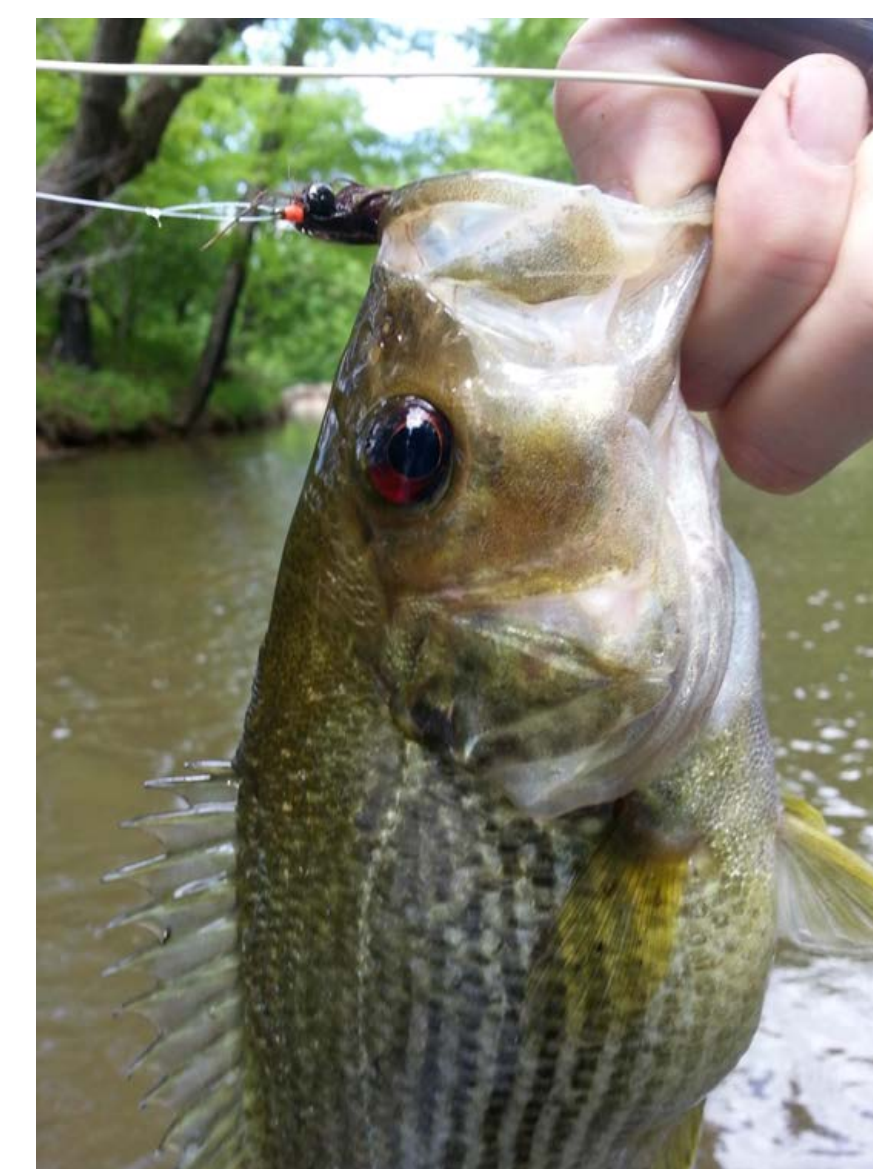
- Target-specific systemic herbicide
 - Interferes with pigment or color formation in plants
 - Ultimately reduces plant's ability to photosynthesize
- Requires prolonged treatment (45-90 days per year) for many years

What are the health effects associated with fluridone exposure?

- Fluridone can have adverse health effects to the liver if it is consumed at high doses for long periods of time.
- 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.



How might you be exposed to fluridone?



- Dermal (skin) contact while swimming, wading, or fishing
- Incidental ingestion (drinking) of river water while swimming
- Eating fish caught in the treatment area (*Photo courtesy of Terry Hackett, Stormwater Program Manager, Town of Hillsborough*)
- Drinking water with the herbicide

How can you reduce your exposure to fluridone?



- Do not tamper with the herbicide drip infusion system
- Shower after swimming and bathe pets after swimming
- Limit the number of fish eaten from the treatment area
- Do not use river water for drinking, cooking, bathing, or irrigation

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 drinking directly from the river.

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.

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.