



## ***CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: 5/11/2017

MURPHY - The Cherokee County Health Department, in conjunction with N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health and N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality (DEQ) is issuing a precautionary advisory pending a water quality investigation for the Hiwassee River from the Town of Murphy Wastewater Treatment Facility discharge point located at 391 Payne Street Murphy, NC 28906 to the Hanging Dog Recreational Area.

There are no reports of fish kills or discoloration of the lake water. DEQ is working to obtain and test samples of the water at the point of discharge.

Until the issue can be resolved and the water is tested and declared safe, public health officials recommend people and pets avoid all contact with water from that portion of the Hiwassee River and Hiwassee Lake. This includes such activities as swimming, wading or boating until further notice. Anyone who encounters the water should wash thoroughly with clean water and soap as soon as possible.

For further information please contact the Cherokee County Health Department at 828-837-7486