



Lake George
Association



ProcellaCOR & Lake George: Too Many Unanswered Questions

The Lake George Association (LGA) and Lake George Waterkeeper are calling on Gov. Kathy Hochul, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York State Adirondack Park Agency to halt a proposal by the Lake George Park Commission, another state agency, to use a chemical herbicide called ProcellaCOR in the Lake as a treatment for Eurasian watermilfoil.

The LGA is the preeminent not-for-profit Lake-protection organization dedicated to safeguarding the Lake's world-renowned water quality. The Lake George Waterkeeper is a science-to-solutions program of the LGA.

This would be the first time a chemical herbicide has ever been used in Lake George, which is classified by the state as a Class AA Special waterbody, the highest designation available, and is a drinking water source for thousands of local people and visitors.

This same proposal was the subject of overwhelming public opposition last summer — a nearly 4,600-signature petition, 300 letters to the APA, and resolutions from the towns of Hague and Ticonderoga — and was eventually halted by a preliminary injunction in New York State Supreme Court.

The LGA and Waterkeeper oppose this experiment due to the startling lack of scientific research regarding the specific impacts the herbicide will have on the specially protected waters of Lake George. Our concerns include:

- potentially adverse impacts to critically important native plants and organisms;
- the possibility that treated and decomposing milfoil will cause significant algae growth and increase the risk of harmful algal blooms;
- the likely far-reaching spread of the herbicide due to the Lake's strong currents;
- how long the toxic chemical will remain in the Lake, and the fact that it eventually breaks down into chemicals that are just as toxic as the parent chemical;
- the likelihood that the herbicide's projected effectiveness will be reduced by the Lake's strong currents since the manufacturer clearly states its product is for use in "slow moving/quiescent waters with little or no continuous outflow ...;"
- the significant restrictions on the use of Lake water for agricultural and non-agricultural irrigation, and for feeding animals, after the herbicide is used;
- why such a dramatic and risky departure from the traditional hand harvesting method of milfoil removal is necessary when the Park Commission itself has acknowledged the success of that program.

Please join us in protecting Lake George by asking Gov. Hochul, the Lake George Park Commission, NYSDEC, and the Adirondack Park Agency to reject the use of ProcellaCOR until all of these critically important questions are answered. Email links and more information can be found at www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/hochul-letter.