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Treatment of Hydrilla on Cayuga Lake

As part of an effort to eradicate Hydrilla from Cayuga Lake, the United States Army Corps of Engineers was planning on treating a patch of Hydrilla located near Don's Marina in the Town of Genoa with Endothall next week. Residents in the area were notified by the Army Corps last week of this planned chemical application.

Due to a miscommunication on the part of the certified pesticide applicator, the chemical Endothall was applied today, August 15, 2019, at Don's Marina. The notification boundary area includes a half mile north and half mile south of Don's Marina.

The Health Department has hand delivered notices to residents in the area to let them know of the unannounced application and the restriction that people should not swim in the treatment and/or notification area until after noon tomorrow, Friday August 16, 2019. This is to allow for adequate mixing of the product in the water. There are no restrictions on fishing, boating, or using the water for irrigation. Additionally, there are no restrictions for use of the Endothall treated water for watering animals.

There is one public water system intake in the notification area. Although no impacts are anticipated, the users of this system, Atwater Association, have been advised, as a precautionary measure, not to drink the water until samples collected by the Army Corps in consultation with the Health Department show that the pesticide is not detected in their drinking water. This treatment is not expected to impact public water system intakes in other parts of the lake.

For people who draw water from the lake for use in their homes, the New York State Department of Health advises that people should never drink untreated lake water (water that is drawn from the lake, at any depth) under any circumstances regardless of whether Endothall is applied to areas of Cayuga Lake. Untreated lake water might contain bacteria, parasites, viruses, and harmful algal blooms. These contaminants can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. Young children, pregnant women, older adults and people with health issues are at higher risk from symptoms associated with these contaminants. People should never use untreated lake water for drinking, making ice, washing produce, preparing foods, making baby formula, or washing dishes.
