

August 5, 1994

Eagle Lake Property Owners Inc.
c/o Bill Allen
35 Mill Road
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Dear Eagle Lake Property Owners:

We oppose using the chemical SONAR IN Eagle Lake for the purpose of controlling Eurasian Milfoil. The use of chemicals in our society seems to be a quick-fix without considering the consequences. Our dock and boat are located in one of the most infested areas - the east bay, but we don't seem to have any problems getting the boat out of the bay. It takes an extra minute to hand paddle clear of the milfoil growth. Once on the lake, other than steering clear of islands and several buoys, we do not have any complaints about getting around. In fact, we travel quite easily. Why the big push to use SONAR now? If it is registered in NYS, then when and if the lake is truly menaced by this plant, property owners can consider this option in the future. Our concerns and reasons should be considered carefully by every property owner on Eagle Lake and New York State residents.

- The cost (\$50,000+) to implement milfoil control is quite a considerable sum of money for something that has a chance of failure due to extenuating factors during and after application, and also a probable one year effectiveness because milfoil will be reintroduced in the fall or next spring by animals or boats. The likelihood that the plant will return and the lake will return to infestation within several years, does warrant questioning the high price tag for this project.

- The E.P.A. and other government agencies are without error and do not have impeccable records. These agencies declare something safe, but years later when problems arise, they admit their mistake and impose restrictions on a product's use. Case in point - DDT, asbestos, silicone breast implants, *D.F.S.* (the list goes on). Pardon us for being so cynical, but the facts speak for themselves. Companies have been known to "doctor up" research in order to sell their products. Is there any proof that Sepro has 100% accurate and honest data?

- The decision to use SONAR does not involve Eagle Lake owners only. The chemical will flow into Paradox Lake and Schroon Lake. Residents should be made aware of the planned usage and give consent. Has this happened?

- The lake does not belong to us. It is the responsibility of NYS to pay the cost. If lake access could be limited to property owners so milfoil introduction could not come from other sources, it might help maintain a healthy

lake. But access cannot be limited. All peoples have access to the lake, so we feel it is the responsibility of NYS to incur any costs for milfoil control. Property owners assuming the financial responsibility for milfoil control is a dangerous precedent.

- Who estimated 25% of the lake having milfoil growth? Where did this figure come from? We disagree with this overrated percentage. Anyone taking a tour around the lake will come to the conclusion that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the lake is not supporting Eurasian Milfoil. Much of the shoreline which is shallow does not show signs of milfoil. We dare say 10% of the lake is infected. This year alone, several patches of milfoil have declined considerably (by the bridge) and one patch has completely disappeared. If milfoil hampers growth of other vegetation, why are water lilies propagating in many parts of the lake? The milfoil around our dock has not stopped water lilies from tripling in area this past year.

- The SONAR label reads:

The chemical should not be applied within one-fourth mile (1320 feet) of any functioning potable water intake.

Some residents get their drinking water from the lake on both side of the lake. How will these restrictions be implemented if the lake is only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide and 4-5 miles long? Will alternate water supplies be recommended for these residents?

- Possible litigation. We will not be party to any legal action that may arise in the future. We are not willing to take the chance of being involved in a lawsuit because of SONAR application. The courts have been awarding millions to injured parties for less grounds than a possible SONAR related health claim. Companies do not accept the responsibility for financial damages unless forced to by a lawsuit. Can E.L.P.O. Inc. afford such legal expenses if they arise? It is ludicrous to think an insurance policy for a \$1,0000 premium (same as a homeowners' policy) can sufficiently cover the assets of Eagle Lake property owners. We are not ready to jeopardize our assets on the word of a chemical company. Will Sepro guarantee in writing to cover any legal expenses or other problems that may arise during the latency period for SONAR?

- We do not like the idea of Eagle Lake being used as an experiemental site for Sepro. The lake is pristine and should not be tampered with. Who will accept responsibility should something go awry? The executive committee? D.E.C.? Separ?

- Sepro will definitely have much to gain - millions of dollars if SONAR is purchased by other lake associations in NYS. We hope that all parties advocating the use of any chemicals or other means of control would only be concerned with the welfare of the lake and its use by residents and

the public. The executive committee has the responsibility to assure the public that no member is using the program for personal gain and it is their duty to police the application in Eagle Lake to insure a professional job if the project is allowed to proceed. All parties should be informed of disadvantages as well as advantages of the product - SONAR. We do not feel this has happened. It is our opinion that no application be permitted by anyone other than a licensed chemist representing the owners' association and NOT the chemical company. This should eliminate conflict of interest.

- SONAR has been known to breakdown to a substance called n-methylformamide in laboratory testing. NMF is a well known toxin that is a teratogen (a substance which causes birth defects) and a hepatotoxin (a substance which is toxic to the liver) and a fetotoxin (a substance capable of causing stillbirths and miscarriages). In field tests, SONAR treated water did not detect NMF. The controversy and potential is still very much alive. Information obtained from March 1993 VT D.E.C. - New York didn't have any such information or report when I requested it.

-We were disappointed that the 1993 executive committee allowed a vote at the annual meeting to proceed with SONAR. My recollection is that ONLY an informational presentation was to be given on SONAR. Since we had the information already, we like maybe other people, did not attend the meeting. The vote was 28 - 0 but 28 (which were spouse votes also on occasion) out of 80+ property owners does not constitute a majority.

- We realize research has shown that native vegetation declines where milfoil grows but SONAR also may kill native vegetation.

In conclusion, our major concern is the health of the public and the health of the lake. E.P.A. as of July, 1992, has only reached final decisions on TWO out of 17,000 pesticides subject to reregistration. Research and data collection take years, sometimes decades; meanwhile, some people and lake life may be in danger.

The Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. does not have our consent or approval to move ahead with plans to use SONAR in Eagle Lake. We have not paid our dues because we do not want the money to be connected in any way to advocate SONAR.

Lastly, conscience dictated that we make our concerns known. We feel uncomfortable about this whole SONAR issue and have voiced our concerns before - verbally. We feel we have raised some legitimate concerns and questions that have not been answered to our satisfaction, but need to be addressed to not only us but to all Eagle Lake property owners.

Sincerely, _____

WITH HELD NAME RT

CC: DEC
Eagle Lake Property Owners.