



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-PLE-25-03

Date
April 16, 2025

In Reply Refer to:
Environmental Resources Branch

Draft
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
LAKE HOPATCONG HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM TREATMENT
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SUSSEX AND MORRIS COUNTIES, NEW JERSEY

In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District, is issuing a draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) titled: *Lake Hopatcong Harmful Algal Bloom Treatment Demonstration Project – Sussex and Morris Counties, New Jersey*. In addition to the no action alternative, the SEA evaluates the treatment of harmful algal blooms (HABs) utilizing innovative HAB maintenance technologies. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of non-pesticidal products and early season benthic applications of algicides to control near-shore HABs. This HAB demonstration project is expected to advance HAB management methodologies and directly benefit Lake Hopatcong with a reduction of HABs and phosphorus levels.

A Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Implementation of Section 128 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, *Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program* (2023) established the base guidance for implementing a demonstration program to determine the cause of, and implement measures to effectively detect, prevent, treat, and eliminate harmful algal blooms associated with water resources development projects. Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey was identified as a preferred location to conduct a demonstration project.

The proposed demonstration project is a combination of three treatment periods at 6 different lake coves within Lake Hopatcong (Figure 1) during early spring, early summer, and mid-late summer of 2025. All treatment periods will be monitored for short- and long-term effects. The early spring treatments will use algicides (PAK 27 (oxidizer) and Cutrine plus Granular Algicide (chelated copper)) that are commonly applied as a HAB management effort and previously approved in the above-mentioned PEA. The focus of this SEA is for the early summer and mid-late summer treatments, using LiquiFloc 1% (chitosan) and EutroSORB® G (lanthanum). The Northern Cove and the Landing Channel sites will be treated in early summer, while the Great Cove and the Van Every Cove sites will be treated in mid-late summer (Figure 1).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment/ Finding of No Significant Impact (SEA/FONSI) has been prepared for this project, and is being circulated to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and the interested public. Requests for this document should be made to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Environmental Resources Branch. The report can also be obtained from:

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Public-Notices-Reports/>

In accordance with the Clean Water Act of 1972, all permits required through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Surface Water & Pretreatment Permitting for both the Master General Pesticide Application, and the Final Surface Water Master General Permit Category Harmful Algal Bloom Management will be obtained prior to the start of the demonstration project.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not adversely affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the USACE has determined that the proposed action will have No Effect on historic properties. Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is being requested as a result of this public notice. Pending the concurrence determination from the SHPO, this action is in full compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan.

Public access may be temporarily impacted during treatment activities due to increased boat traffic and demonstration activities. Public areas may include docks and residential properties that reside near the coves.

The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this SEA. Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice should be directed to Mr. Adrian Leary ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, at PDPA-NAP@usace.army.mil no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Comments may also be submitted to the following website: <https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Lake-Hopatcong-Harmful-Algal-Bloom-Treatment-Demonstration-Project/>.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

FOR

Adrian Leary
Chief, Planning Division
Philadelphia District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

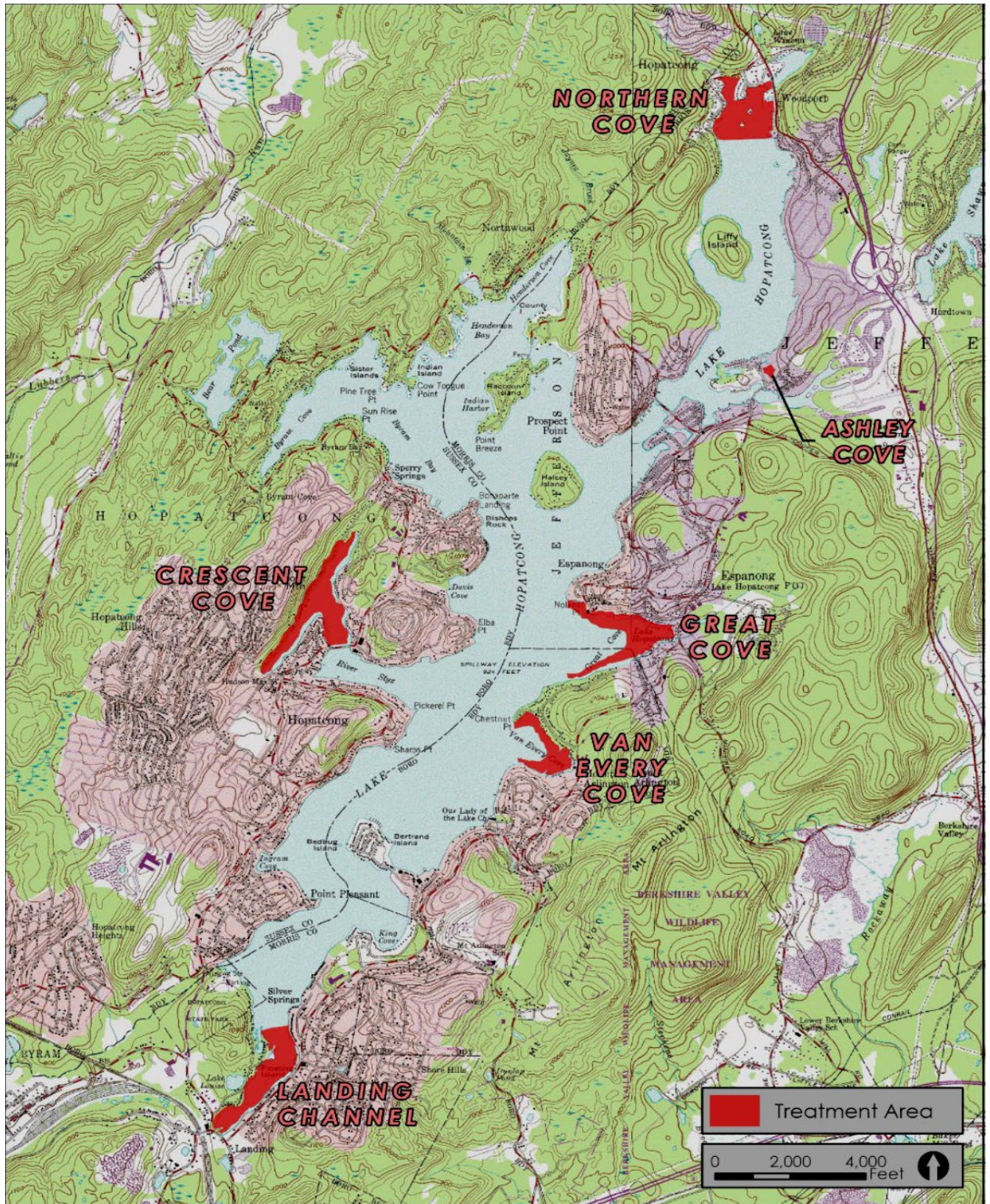


Figure 1: Project Location Map (Princeton Hydro, 2025)