



PRESS RELEASE
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Protect the Adirondacks Urges State Agencies to Take Action to Stop Whiskey Fungus Contamination

DEC and APA need to take further action to stop the source of whiskey fungus from contaminating properties in an Adirondack Park community

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Protect the Adirondacks (PROTECT) is urging the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to take action to compel a whiskey maker to control emissions from its storage facilities that are coating nearby homes, cars, signs and fencing with a black mold known as “whiskey fungus.” The company, WhistlePig Whiskey, owns and operates 13 warehouses in the small community of Mineville in New York’s Adirondack Park.

In a letter to DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar, [available here](#), PROTECT urges that a DEC regional office’s approval of a WhistlePig plan to address its whisky fungus contamination of nearby properties be revoked. The plan was submitted after DEC determined that vapor emissions from WhistlePig were causing formation of the black mold on homes and other property in the vicinity of the company’s facility. DEC previously informed WhistlePig that its emissions were violating air pollution control regulations and required the company to submit a corrective action plan.

The plan, submitted in June 2024 and conditionally approved by the DEC regional office in July 2024, does not include any measures to reduce or eliminate WhistlePig’s mold-causing emissions; rather, it merely provides that the company will, once a year, power wash homes within a certain radius of the WhistlePig facilities. “DEC must revoke the approval because the WhistlePig plan is not a corrective action plan and fails to address the root cause of the company’s regulatory violations” said Christopher Amato, PROTECT’s Conservation Director and Counsel.

PROTECT’s letter to the APA, [available here](#), urges the agency to initiate an enforcement action against WhistlePig because its emissions violate the company’s APA permit, which prohibits any off-site emissions from the company’s facility. To date, APA has not taken any enforcement

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action to stop the off-site emissions even though public complaints have been lodged about this for over a year. “APA needs to leverage its enforcement powers to protect the residents of Mineville from the fungus that DEC has concluded is coming from the WhistlePig facility” said Claudia Braymer, PROTECT’s Deputy Director.

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks is an IRS-approved non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park. Our mission is to protect the Adirondack Park’s wild character for current and future generations. PROTECT pursues this mission through a combination of advocacy, grassroots organizing, independent public oversight, research, water quality monitoring, education, and legal action. Protect the Adirondacks was formed in 2009 as the result of a merger between two long-standing environmental conservation groups in the Adirondack Park, the Resident’s Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (est. 1991) and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (est. 1901).

Protect the Adirondacks is managed by a 22-member Board of Directors of Adirondack leaders with expertise in environmental law, local government, Adirondack environmental and cultural history, state agency management, and small business. Protect the Adirondacks maintains an office in a 100% energy efficient, solar-and wind-powered office in Johnsbury in the central Adirondacks. For more information see www.protectadks.org and @ProtectAdkPark.

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