

Environmental groups won't fight NYCO testing

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LEWIS — Instead of appealing a court decision giving the OK for NYCO Minerals to test drill here, four environmentalist groups will turn their attention to monitoring the work.

"Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve; Protect the Adirondacks!; the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter; and the Atlantic States Legal Foundation have decided not to appeal the decision of Essex County Supreme Court in the matter of test drilling for the mineral wollastonite on 'Lot 8' in the Jay Mountain Wilderness Area in Lewis," those groups said in a joint press release on Friday.

In December 2014, the State Supreme Court dismissed a lawsuit by those organizations that sought to put a halt to the project, which, as outlined by the statewide Proposition 5 constitutional amendment passed in 2013, would allow NYCO to test mine on 200-acre Lot 8 then, if sufficient wollastonite were found there, swap the land for 1,507 acres of private land that would be added to the Forest Preserve.

Justice Thomas D. Buchanan's decision upheld Adirondack Park Agency and State Department of Environmental Conservation permit approval for the test mining.

DRILLING ONGOING

NYCO began exploratory drilling in December, after the dismissal of the lawsuit.

And the company is focused on that work, NYCO spokesman John Brodt told the Press-Republican via email on Friday.

"We are continuing the drilling as per the provisions of our temporary revocable permit and as stipulated in the constitutional amendment that was approved by the state's voters," he said.

"We are working closely with DEC and following all regulatory requirements."