

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTICE: PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following municipalities are advised that Next Era Energy (NEER) proposes to utilize herbicides on their Rights-of-Way:

Bellingham

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct regional hearings to receive public comment on the proposed NextEra Energy Vegetation Management Plan, as submitted by SWCA Environmental Consultants.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public ZOOM hearing will be held at the following location:

Topic: Next Era Energy VMP Public Hearing

Time: Mar 22, 2024 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83719636411?pwd=N3pYdnprRHU5bHlsejBaVk9FbnBrZz09>

Meeting ID: 837 1963 6411

Passcode: 756915

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 837 1963 6411

Passcode: 756915

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kqcsZG4ZR>

Plans Available for Public Review Prior to Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the Row Management Regulations provide: “At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request.” Such request should be made to:

James Hopfer
Principal Forester
East Region Vegetation Management
425 N. Williamson Boulevard
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Telephone: 386-212-1385
James.Hopfer@nexteraenergy.com

Copy of the proposed VMP is available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at <http://www.mass.gov/agr/pesticides/rightofway/plans.htm>. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St, Bellingham, MA 02019

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the NextEra Energy VMP until the close of business (5pm): Friday, March 22, 2024

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor
Southborough, MA 01772