

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (“MDAR”) HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF A GENERAL HEARING, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C.30A, § 2 and 950 CMR 20.04 which requires the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources to hold a public hearing for the permanent adoption of 330 CMR 31.00 Plant Nutrient Application Requirements for Agricultural Land and Land Not Used for Agricultural Purposes . The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources promulgates these regulations pursuant to its authority under G.L. c. 128, Sections 2(k) and Section 65(A), as amended by St. 2012, c. 262. 330 CMR 31.00 establishes limitations on the application of plant nutrients to lawns and non-agricultural turf to prevent these non-point source pollutants from entering the surface and groundwater resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These state-wide limitations on plant nutrient applications will enhance the ability of municipalities to maximize the credits provided in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The regulations further ensure that plant nutrients are applied to agricultural land in an effective manner to provide sufficient nutrients for plant growth while minimizing the impacts of the nutrients on water resources in order to protect human health and the environment.

All persons desiring to provide oral testimony are hereby notified to appear upon the following dates and times at the respective designated locations:

April 1, 2014 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 100 Cambridge Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Boston, MA 02114

April 3, 2014 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the MassDEP Southeast Region Main Office, 20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville, MA 02347.

April 4, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Springfield City Hall, Room 220, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103

In addition to oral testimony, written comments will be accepted before and at the Hearing. MDAR will continue to accept written comments until April 4, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments should be addressed to Gregory C. Watson, Department of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500 Boston, MA 02114.

The full text of the regulation and background information is available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/docs/draft-nutrient-management-regulations.pdf>. A hard copy of the full text of the regulation and background information are also available upon written request made to the Commissioner.

By: Gregory C. Watson, Commissioner.