THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Agricultural Resources
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MDAR MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

CHARLES D. BAKER Governor | KARYN E. POLITO Lt. Governor | MATTHEW A. BEATON Secretary | JOHN LEBEAUX Commissioner

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 the Brookfield Renewables Bear Swamp Project proposes to utilize herbicides on their Rights-of-Way:

Rowe and Florida

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 Brookfield Renewables Bear Swamp Project Vegetation Management Plan, as submitted by the David O'Brien of Lewis Tree Service, Inc.
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To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, public hearings will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, April 12, 2016: Bear Swamp visitor center, 458 River Road, Florida, Massachusetts from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

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:

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David O'Brien
Lewis Tree Service, Inc.
300 Lucius Gordon Dr.
West Henrietta, NY.
DOBrien@lewistree.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:

Florida Free Library, 56 N County Rd, Florida, MA 01247

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 MMWEC VMP until the close of business: Friday, May 6, 2016
Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151