

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary

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Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 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 **Massachusetts Railroad Association** representing Amtrak National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Grafton & Upton Railroad, Housatonic Railroad Company, Massachusetts Central Railroad, Massachusetts Coastal Railroad, New England Central Railroad Incorporated, Pioneer Valley Railroad and Providence and Worcester Railroad Company proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

AMTRAK

Attleborough, Dedham, Mansfield, Westwood, Boston, Foxborough, Sharon, Canton, Longmeadow, Springfield

GRAFTON & UPTON RAILROAD

Grafton, Hopedale, Milford, Upton

HOUSATONIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Great Barrington, Lenox, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Lee, Pittsfield

MASSACHUSETTS CENTRAL RAILROAD

Barre, Hardwick, New Braintree, Palmer, Ware

MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL RAILROAD

Attleborough, Fall River, Lakeville, Norton, Taunton, Barnstable, Falmouth, Mansfield, Raynham, Walpole, Berkley, Foxborough, Medfield, Rochester, Wareham, Bourne, Framingham, Middleborough, Sandwich, Westport, Dartmouth, Freetown, New Bedford, Sherborn, Yarmouth

NEW ENGLAND CENTRAL RAILROAD

Amherst, Erving, Monson, Northfield, Sunderland, Belchertown, Leverett, Montague, Palmer

PIONEER VALLEY RAILROAD

Holyoke, West Springfield, Westfield

PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD

Auburn, Grafton, Millville, Seekonk, Worcester, Blackstone, Holden, Northbridge, Sutton, Dudley, Hubbardston, Oxford, Uxbridge, Gardner, Millbury, Princeton, Webster

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the **Massachusetts Railroad Association**, as submitted by: TEC Associates, 46 Sawyer Street, South Portland, Maine 04116-2747

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

Thursday, April 14, 2016: Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, Massachusetts in the Conference Room from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016,MDAR Office, 101 University Drive, Amherst, Suite C4, Conference Room Massachusetts from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Plans Available for Review Prior to Public 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:

Mr. Wayne Duffett
President
TEC Associates
46 Sawyer Street
South Portland, Maine 04106

The proposed VMP are available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Crop and Pest Services web site www.mass.gov/agr and also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Hyannis Public Library, 401 Main Street, Hyannis
Peabody Institute Library, 82 Main Street, Peabody
Springfield Public Library, 220 State Street, Springfield
Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square Worcester

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, Massachusetts Railroad Association VMP until the close of business Friday, May 6, 2016**

Commentary should be sent to:

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