

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR.
Secretary

GREGORY C. WATSON
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 National Grid USA proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

Abington Adams Amesbury Andover Ashburnham Athol Attleboro Auburn Avon Ayer Barre Belchertown Bellingham Berlin Bernardston Beverly Billerica Blackstone Boxford Boylston Bridgewater Brimfield Brockton Brookfield Buckland Charlemont Charlton Chelmsford Cheshire Clarksburg Clinton Cohasset Colrain Conway Danvers Deerfield Dighton Douglas Dracut Dudley Dunstable East Bridgewater East Brookfield Easthampton East Longmeadow Easton Egremont Erving Everett Fall River Fitchburg Florida Foxborough Franklin Gardner Georgetown Gill Gloucester Grafton Granby Great Barrington Greenfield Groton Groveland Halifax Hampden Hancock Hanson Hanover Hardwick Harvard Haverhill Heath Hingham Holbrook Holden Hopedale Hubbardston Hull Lancaster Lanesborough Lawrence Lee Leicester Lenox Leominster Leverett Leyden Littleton Lowell Ludlow Lunenburg Lynn Lynnfield Malden Mansfield Marlborough Medford Medway Melrose Mendon Merrimac Methuen Middleton Milford Millbury Millville Monroe Monson Montague Newbury Newburyport New Salem North Adams Northampton North Andover North Attleborough Northborough Northbridge North Brookfield North Reading Norton Norwell Oakham Orange Oxford Palmer Paxton Peabody Pelham Pembroke Pepperell Petersham Phillipston Plainville Princeton Randolph Reading Rehoboth Revere Richmond Rockland Rockport Rowe Rowley Royalston Rutland Salem Salisbury Saugus Scituate Seekonk Sheffield Shelburne Shirley Shrewsbury Shutesbury Somerset Southborough Southbridge Spencer Sterling Stockbridge Stoughton Sturbridge Sunderland Sutton Swampscott Swansea Templeton Tewksbury Topsfield Tyngsborough Upton Uxbridge Wakefield Ware Warren Warwick Webster Wendell Wenham Westborough West Boylston West Bridgewater West Brookfield Westford Westminster West Newbury Westport West Stockbridge Weymouth Wilbraham Williamstown Wilmington Winchendon Winthrop Whitman Worcester Wrentham

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 Vegetation Management Plan for the National Grid USA as submitted by the National Grid USA.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2013: City Hall, Hearing Room, 210 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Wednesday, December 11: Umass Field Station, Conference Room, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, Massachusetts from 11:00 am – 12:30 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:

Dawn Travalini
Lead Vegetation Strategy Specialist
National Grid
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02451

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html> . The VMP will also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Memorial Library, 175 Middlesex Avenue, Massachusetts
Franklin Public Library, Main Street, Franklin, Massachusetts
Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Northampton, Massachusetts

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 National Grid USA VMP until the close of business: Friday, January 3, 2014.

Commentary should be sent to:

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