

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

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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 NSTAR Electric & Gas Company proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

MUNICIPALITIES		
ABINGTON	FAIRHAVEN	ORLEANS
ACTON	FALMOUTH	PEMBROKE
ACUSHNET	FRAMINGHAM	PLYMOUTH
ARLINGTON	FRANKLIN	PLYMPTON
ASHLAND	FREETOWN	RANDOLPH
AVON	HALIFAX	ROCHESTER
BARNSTABLE	HANSON	SANDWICH
BEDFORD	HARWICH	SHARON
BELLINGHAM	HOLBROOK	SHERBORN
BLACKSTONE	HOLLISTON	SOMERVILLE
BOSTON	HOPKINTON	STOUGHTON
BOURNE	KINGSTON	SUDBURY
BRAINTREE	LEXINGTON	TISBURY
BREWSTER	LINCOLN	TRURO
BRIDGEWATER	MARION	UXBRIDGE
BROCKTON	MARSHFIELD	WALPOLE
BROOKLINE	MASHPEE	WALTHAM
BURLINGTON	MATTAPOISETT	WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE	MAYNARD	WAREHAM
CANTON	MEDFIELD	WAYLAND

CARLISLE	MEDWAY	WELLFLEET
CARVER	MENDON	WESTON
CHATHAM	MIDDLEBOROUGH	WESTPORT
CHELSEA	MILLIS	WESTWOOD
DARTMOUTH	MILLVILLE	WEYMOUTH
DEDHAM	MILTON	WHITMAN
DENNIS	NATICK	WILMINGTON
DOVER	NEEDHAM	WINCHESTER
DUXBURY	NEW BEDFORD	WOBURN
EAST BRIDGEWATER	NEWTON	WORCESTER
EASTHAM	NORFOLK	YARMOUTH
EDGARTOWN	OAK BLUFFS	

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 NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation as submitted by the NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation.

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

Tuesday, April 9, 2013: UMass Waltham Field Station, 3rd floor conference room, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, Massachusetts from 11.00 am – 12:30 pm.

Thursday, April 11, 2013: Wareham Town Hall, 54 Marion Rd, Wareham, Cafeteria from 11:00 AM until 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:

William Hayes, Senior Transmission Arborist
 NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation
 Planning Scheduling and Contract Services Department
 One NSTAR Way, SE-370
 Westwood, MA 02090-9230
 781-441-3837 (office)

The proposed VMP is posted at www.mass.gov/agr for reviewing. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Jonathan Bourne Library, 19 Sandwich Road, Bourne, Massachusetts

Framingham Public Library, 49 Lexington Street, Framingham, 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 NSTAR Electric & Gas Company VMP until the close of business: Friday, May 3, 2013

Commentary should be sent to:

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