

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Department of Agricultural Resources

225 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772

www.mass.gov/agr



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Ashley E. Randle
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 Berkshire & Eastern Railroad proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way throughout Massachusetts:

Adams	Ashburnham	Athol
Ayer	Bernardston	Buckland
Charlemont	Chicopee	Conway
Deerfield	Easthampton	Erving
Fitchburg	Florida	Gardner
Greenfield	Hatfield	Holyoke
Montague	North Adams	Northampton
Northfield	Orange	Phillipston
Rowe	Royalston	Shelburne
Springfield	Templeton	Wendell
Westminster	Whately	Williamstown
Winchendon		

PUBLIC HEARING 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 Berkshire & Eastern Railroad Vegetation Management Plan.

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

Topic: Berkshire & Eastern RR VMP Public Hearing

Time: Apr 24, 2026 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82969623752?pwd=smXKhNNMRbacO65U3ec0RcAIWjWTJ4.1>

Meeting ID: 829 6962 3752

Passcode: 131016

+19292056099,,82969623752#,,,,*131016# US (New York)

Join instructions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/82969623752?signature=ROBHX-vKgePC2r-ITTwL5tAQIWEEAvIwNR1d0r2Yonc>

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:

Mr. Blake Gullett, Director of Engineering, Berkshire & Eastern Railroad
38 Railroad Yard Road, Deerfield, MA 01342
Blake.gullett@gwrr.com

The proposed VMP is posted at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rights-of-way-vegetation-management-vmpps-yops-and-notice> for reviewing. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Adams Public Library, 92 Park Street, Adams, Massachusetts 01220

Springfield Public Library, 220 State St, Springfield, MA 01103

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 Berkshire & Eastern Railroad VMP until the close of business (5pm): April 24, 2026.

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of-Way Program
Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau
225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor
Southborough, MA 01772

Comments must be received by close of business (5pm): April 24, 2026