

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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CHARLES D. BAKER
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Secretary

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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 Great River Hydro proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in Buckland, Monroe and Florida, MA.

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 Great River Hydro, as prepared and submitted by Wendy L. Priestly, Ph.D, Vegetation Control Service, 2342 Main St., Athol, MA 01331.

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

Wednesday, May 22, 2019: Buckland Town Hall, 17 State Street, Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts from 11:00am – 12:30 pm.

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:

Timothy Harty
Environmental Specialist
Great River Hydro Northeast, LLC
Walpole Office
2 Killeen Street
North Walpole, NH 03609

The proposed VMP is posted at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html> for reviewing. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Buckland Public Library, 30 Upper St., Buckland, MA 01338

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 Great River Hydro VMP until the close of business (5pm): Friday, May 24, 2019

Commentary should be sent to:

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

Comments must be received by close of business (5pm): May 24, 2019