

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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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 community is advised that the **Holyoke Gas and Electric (HG&E)** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way: Chicopee, Holyoke, South Hadley

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 Holyoke Gas & Electric, as submitted by Fuss & O'Neill.

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

Topic: Holyoke Gas & Electric VMP Public Hearing
Time: Dec 22, 2023 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84394667057?pwd=YWluGxPbEYyTE9NOEIZc2VVcE1Mdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 9466 7057

Passcode: 847092

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 843 9466 7057

Passcode: 847092

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84394667057>

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. Christopher Perry
Holyoke Gas & Electric
99 Suffolk Street,
Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rights-of-way-vegetation-management-vmps-yops-and-notices> . It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke MA 01040

Written Comments Requested

The public hearing 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 HG&E VMP until the close of business (5p.m.) **Friday, December 22, 2023.**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor
Southborough, MA 01772