

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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KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. 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 Holyoke Gas & Electric proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Ways:

Holyoke, Chicopee and South Hadley

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

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

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018: Holyoke Gas & Electric Headquarters,
Conference Room,
99 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, MA 01040
from 11:00am – 12:30pm**

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:

Christopher Perry
Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator
Holyoke Gas & Electric Department
99 Suffolk Street
Holyoke, MA 01040-5082

The proposed VMP is posted for review at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html>

It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

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

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 Holyoke Gas & Electric MA VMP until the close of business (5 pm): Monday, June 28, 2018

Commentary should be sent to:

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

Comments period closes end of business (5 pm): Monday, June 25, 2018