

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides
Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
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 Keolis Commuter Rail proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way throughout Massachusetts:

Abington Dedham Lawrence Norfolk Wakefield Acton E. Bridgewater Leominster North Andover Walpole*
Andover Easton** Lincoln Norwood Waltham Ashland Everett Littleton Plymouth Wellesley Avon Fall River*
Lowell Plympton Wenham Ayer Fitchburg Lunenburg Quincy W. Bridgewater Bellingham Foxborough* Lynn
Randolph Westborough Belmont Framingham Malden Raynham* Weston Berkley* Franklin Manchester Reading
Westwood Beverly Freetown* Mansfield* Revere Weymouth Billerica Gloucester Medford Rockport Whitman
Boston Grafton Melrose Rowley Wilmington Boxborough Halifax Middleborough* Salem Winchester Braintree
Hamilton Milford Saugus Woburn Bridgewater Hanson Millbury Scituate Worcester Brockton Haverhill Milton
Shirley Brookline Hingham Natick Somerville Cambridge Holbrook Needham Southborough Canton Hopedale
New Bedford* Stoughton Chelsea Ipswich Newbury Swampscott Cohasset Kingston Newburyport Taunton*
Concord Lakeville* Newton Tewksbury

* Indicates South Coast Rail Project and/or currently maintained by Massachusetts Coastal RR ** Indicates South Coast Rail Project - Currently out of service

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 Keolis Commuter Rail Vegetation Management Plan.

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

Friday, September 11, 2020

11:00am-12:00pm

Meeting ID: 830 7681 1712

Passcode: 445467

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83076811712?pwd=SytEZFA0TEp1SU5DUkQ4aGd4dGdvdz09>

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:

Clary Coutu
Director of Environmental Services, Compliance and Sustainability
Keolis Commuter Services
470 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02210

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:

Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

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 CSX Railroad VMP until the close of business: Friday, October 9, 2020

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): October 9, 2020