

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
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Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
Commissioner

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 municipalities are advised that **MassDOT** propose to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in the following municipalities:

West Stockbridge	Easthampton	Marshfield
Stockbridge	Greenfield	Norwell
Lee	Hatfield	Pembroke
Becket	Holyoke	Plymouth
Otis	Longmeadow	Rockland
Blandford	Northampton	Avon
Russell	Springfield	Berkley
Brimfield	Whately	Bridgewater
Chicopee	Agawam	Brockton
Ludlow	Foxborough	Freetown
Palmer	Norwood	Raynham
Warren	Sharon	Stoughton
West Springfield	Walpole	Taunton
Westfield	Duxbury	West Bridgewater
Wilbraham	Hanover	Attleboro
Bernardston	Hingham	North Attleboro
Deerfield	Kingston	Mansfield

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 **MassDOT** as submitted by: Mark Carmichael

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

Thursday, May 6, 2021

11:30am-12:30pm

Meeting ID: 889 9939 4856

Password: 614 693

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88999394856?pwd=azVlOS9Wbkt5dzlJKzllc1VFRXdPUT09>

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:

Mark Carmichael
Statewide Maintenance Engineer
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

The proposed VMP are available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Crop and Pest Services web site:

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

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

Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116
Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01608
Springfield Central Library, 220 State Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 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, MassDOT VMP until the close of business (5pm), Friday May 7, 2021**

Commentary should be sent to:

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