

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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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 **Pioneer Valley Railroad** propose to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in: Westfield, West Springfield, Holyoke

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 **Pioneer Valley Railroad** as submitted by: Stephen Herzog

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

Friday, May 7, 2021

11:30am-12:00pm

Meeting ID: 814 5106 8244

Password: 454280

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81451068244?pwd=Z2RGalRNMVkzMjlsTEYwU1lVWkhjZz09>

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:

Stephen Herzog
AMEC Foster Wheeler
271 Mill Road
Chelmsford MA 01824

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:

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, Pioneer Valley Railroad 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