

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN ("VMP") PROCESS STEP BY STEP PURSUANT TO 333 CMR 11.00

VMPs and YOPs Found At: [Rights of Way Vegetation Management - VMPs, YOPs, and Notices | Mass.gov](#)

1. VMP submitted via email or direct mail by the applicant ("Applicant") to the MDAR Rights-of-Way Coordinator ("ROW Coordinator") no later than September 1st prior to the calendar year of the proposed first year of maintenance unless otherwise specified by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources ("MDAR").
2. ROW Coordinator gives preliminary reviews to ensure that all the elements required by 333 CMR 11.00 and all other applicable requirements are incorporated into the VMP.
3. ROW Coordinator schedules a public hearing. ROW Coordinator publishes notice of the hearing(s), at least 21 days prior to the hearing(s), in the Environmental Monitor and regionally located newspapers and sends notice to interested parties.

Description of the Environmental Monitor: [The Environmental Monitor | Mass.gov](#) and [MEPA Environmental Monitor \(state.ma.us\)](#)

4. MDAR holds regional public hearings to comment on proposed plan.
5. Verbal and written comments are received during the hearing. Written comments are accepted up to 45 days after the hearing notice is posted. MDAR can extend the comment period if necessary.
6. ROW Coordinator Distributes a copy of the plan and the comments submitted by public to the ROW Advisory Panel for review within 30 days of the end of the comment period.
7. Rights of Way Advisory Panel reviews the plan. If the ROW Advisory Panel needs to discuss with one another, a meeting is scheduled in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. In most cases, the individual members are able to make a determination and recommendation on the VMP without any discussion.
8. Each member of the ROW Advisory Panel provide questions, suggested modifications, and their recommendation to MDAR. Any suggested modifications are sent by the ROW Coordinator to the Applicant and coordination of any changes is done by MDAR directly with the Applicant.
9. Once the ROW Coordinator and necessary MDAR staff have reviewed and have determined that the VMP is ready for a final determination, it is sent to the Commissioner for final approval.
10. Notification of MDAR's decision is sent to the Applicant.

Definitions pursuant to 333 CMR 11.02

Applicant is any person representing any federal, state or local government or agency, utility, railroad or pipeline that intends to maintain a right -of-way in the commonwealth by application of herbicides.

Rights- of- way (ROW) is any roadway or thoroughfare on which public passage is made and may corridor of land over which facilities such as railroads, power lines, pipelines, conduits, channels or communication lines or bicycle paths are located.

Rights- of- way Advisory Panel- a panel established to advise the department on issues relating to 333 CMR 11.00 and to fulfill specific functions as detailed within 333CMR 11.05 and 11.11