

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
Lt. Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary

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Commissioner

NOTICE: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION

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.

This Notice serves only to address the public comment period deadline. Public Hearings have been previously noticed and scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Thursday, March 1, 2018: Sandwich Town Hall Auditorium, 136 Main Street, Sandwich, MA from 11:00am – 12:30pm

Tuesday, March 6, 2018: Chatham Town Office Annex, Lower Level, 261 George Ryder Road, Chatham, MA from 11:00am - 12:30pm

The following municipalities are advised that Eversource Energy, proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard:

MUNICIPALITIES		
BARNSTABLE	EDGARTOWN	SANDWICH
BOURNE	FALMOUTH	TISBURY
BREWSTER	HARWICH	TRURO
CHATHAM	MASHPEE	WELLFLEET
DENNIS	OAK BLUFFS	YARMOUTH
EASTHAM	ORLEANS	

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:

William Hayes, Senior Arborist
Eversource Energy, Eastern MA
Vegetation Management
247 Station Drive, SE-370
Westwood, MA 02090-9230
781-441- 3932 (office)

The proposed VMP is posted at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rights-of-way-vegetation-management-vmps-yops-and-notices> and <https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/about-us/doing-business-with-us/municipal-officials/transmission-vegetation-management> for reviewing. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Jonathan Bourne Library, 19 Sandwich Road, Bourne, Massachusetts

Written Comments Requested

The public comment period for Eversource Energy, Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard VMP 2018-2022, will be extended until close of business: 5 P.M., Friday, March 30, 2018. 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 Eversource Energy, Cape Cod and Islands VMP until the close of business: 5 P.M., Friday, March 30, 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 P.M., Friday, March 30, 2018