

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

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 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in Central, Eastern and Southeastern, MA:

MUNICIPALITIES		
ABINGTON	FRAMINGHAM	NORFOLK
ACTON	FRANKLIN	PEMBROKE
ACUSHNET	FREETOWN	PLYMOUTH
ARLINGTON	HALIFAX	PLYMPTON
ASHLAND	HANSON	RANDOLPH
AVON	HOLBROOK	ROCHESTER
BEDFORD	HOLLISTON	SHARON
BELLINGHAM	HOPKINTON	SHERBORN
BLACKSTONE	KINGSTON	SOMERVILLE
BOSTON	LEXINGTON	STOUGHTON
BRAINTREE	LINCOLN	SUDBURY
BRIDGEWATER	MARION	UXBRIDGE
BROCKTON	MARSHFIELD	WALPOLE
BROOKLINE	MATTAPOISETT	WALTHAM
BURLINGTON	MAYNARD	WATERTOWN
CAMBRIDGE	MEDFIELD	WAREHAM
CANTON	MEDWAY	WAYLAND
CARLISLE	MENDON	WESTON
CARVER	MIDDLEBOROUGH	WESTPORT
CHELSEA	MILLIS	WESTWOOD
DARTMOUTH	MILLVILLE	WEYMOUTH
DEDHAM	MILTON	WHITMAN
DOVER	NATICK	WILMINGTON

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John LeBeaux

DUXBURY	NEEDHAM	WINCHESTER
EAST BRIDGEWATER	NEW BEDFORD	WOBURN
FAIRHAVEN	NEWTON	

PUBLIC HEARINGS 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 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA as submitted by Eversource Energy.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, public hearings will be held at the following locations:

Monday, February 26, 2018: Wareham Town Hall, Room 27 Third floor, 54 Marion Road, Wareham, Massachusetts from 11:00am – 12:30 pm.

Tuesday, February 27, 2018: UMass Waltham Field Station, 3rd floor conference room, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, Massachusetts from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.

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

Framingham Public Library, 49 Lexington Street, Framingham, Massachusetts

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 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA VMP until the close of business: Friday, March 2, 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 must be received by close of business: March 2, 2018