

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

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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, Western MA proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

| Municipalities | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Agawam | East Longmeadow | Longmeadow | Southampton |
| Amherst | Erving | Ludlow | South Hadley |
| Ashfield | Gill | Middlefield | Southwick |
| Becket | Granby | Montague | Springfield |
| Belchertown | Granville | Montgomery | Stockbridge |
| Bernardston | Greenfield | New Ashford | Sunderland |
| Blandford | Hadley | Northfield | Tolland |
| Buckland | Hampden | Otis | Tyringham |
| Cheshire | Hancock | Pelham | Warwick |
| Chester | Hatfield | Peru | Washington |
| Chesterfield | Hinsdale | Pittsfield | Wendell |
| Chicopee | Holyoke | Plainfield | Westfield |
| Colrain | Huntington | Richmond | Westhampton |
| Conway | Lanesborough | Russell | West Springfield |
| Cummington | Lee | Sandisfield | Whately |
| Dalton | Lenox | Savoy | Wilbraham |
| Deerfield | Leverett | Shelburne | Windsor |
| Easthampton | Leyden | Shutesbury | Worthington |

PUBLIC HEARING 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, Western MA as submitted by Eversource Energy.

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

Monday February 4, 2019, 11:00am – 12:30pm, Northampton City Hall, City Hall Hearing Room, 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

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, Supervisor
Eversource Energy
Transmission 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 library:

Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Northampton, MA 01060

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, Western MA VMP until the close of business (5pm): February 8, 2019

Commentary should be sent to:

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