



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
**Department of Agricultural Resources**  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114  
617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/AGR



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### NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations, 333 CMR 11:00, in order to apply herbicides to control vegetation along electric utility rights-of-way, a 5-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) must be approved by the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR). Therefore, notice of receipt of a YOP and procedures for public review is hereby given as required by Section 11.06(3).

A Yearly Operational Plan for Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) has been submitted to the Department.

Western Massachusetts Electric Company and Holyoke Water Power Company and Holyoke Power and Electric Company have submitted the following summary of their Yearly Operational Plan (YOP):

The YOP describes vegetation maintenance work to be done on transmission line rights-of-way and distribution line rights-of-way. Maps identify the location of rights-of-way scheduled for treatment in 2006. Sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field are located on these maps including public surface water supplies, and public ground water supply wells and their primary recharge area. Private drinking water supply wells reported by the municipality and made available to the applicant, are specified in the YOP.

Herbicide methods including application rates, carriers and adjuvants are presented according to the herbicide application technique and appropriate location. Alternative woody vegetation control procedures are designated as cutting without herbicide treatment and options precluding herbicide use. The companies which will perform the herbicide treatment are listed and identified in the notification given at least 21 days prior to herbicide treatment. Additionally, herbicide applications to rights-of-way in 2006, are subject to a "newspaper-notification" requirement. Target vegetation capable of interfering with the conductors or access is described in terms of desirable and undesirable species. The individual(s) representing the applicant supervising the YOP are provided. Flagging methods to designate sensitive areas on the right-of-way are described with corresponding sketches for public groundwater supply wells, public surface water supplies and wetlands. Herbicide fact sheets as approved by the Department, as well as procedures and locations for handling, mixing, and loading herbicide concentrates are included. Local emergency planning committees are listed for emergency notification of municipal officials.

Municipalities and sites identified in the Northeast Utilities YOP as locations where treatment of rights-of-way with herbicides will be carried out during the calendar year 2006 are:

**SCHEDULED WORK by TOWN**

Note: T - #'s designate transmission lines scheduled for work.  
 D - #'s designate bulk-supply distribution lines scheduled for work.  
 "Vines" are followed by a street name identifying location of vines growing on poles / wires.  
 "touch-up" designates a touch-up application only

**Distribution**

**2006 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Work Locations</b>	<b>Touch-up Locations</b>
Agawam	D64 Silver s/s – Cooper St.	Vines -- Franklin St.; Suffield St.; Corey St.; Rowley St.; Walnut St.; Cooper St.; Adams St.
Amherst	Vines—East Hadley Rd.; South East Street; McClellan St.; North Pleasant St.; East Pleasant St.	D10 Amherst s/s – Mill St.
Buckland	Vines: Ashfield Rd.	
Chesterfield	D25 Plainfield s/s – Chesterfield D7 Huntington – Chesterfield	Vines -- Rt. 143 Main Rd
Chicopee		D49 Chicopee s/s – Facemate D46 Dwight Station Loop D48 Spaulding tap
Conway		Vines -- Bond St.; Main Poland Rd.
Cummington	D25 Plainfield s/s – Chesterfield	
Dalton		D35 Doreen s/s – Dalton s/s
Deerfield	D14 Cumberland s/s – S. Deerfield D15 Warner Brothers tap Vines: Sunderland Rd.	Vines – Rt.116 Conway Rd.
Easthampton	D2 Midway s/s – Easthampton (Mechanic St.) D3 Midway s/s -- Easthampton	D5 Midway s/s – Hadley D70 Gunn s/s – Plain Rd.
Greenfield	D14 Cumberland s/s – S. Deerfield D23 Montague s/s – Mountain Rd.	
Hadley	Vines: Huntington Rd.	D5 Midway s/s – Hadley
Huntington	D7 Huntington – Chesterfield D9 Huntington – Rt. 20	
Lee	Vines: Silver St.; Maple St.	D32 Woodland s/s – Lenox Vines – Stockbridge Rd.; Silver St.; Forest St.; Tyringham Rd.
Lenox		D32 Woodland s/s – Lenox

Longmeadow		D51 Franconia – CL&P
Ludlow	Vines: West St.	
Montague	D23 Montague s/s – Mountain Rd.	D20 Montague – Millers Falls
Pittsfield	Vines: South St.	D65 Partridge s/s – Crane Ave. D30 Doreen s/s – Dalton Ave. D33 Doreen s/s – Dorchester s/s
Plainfield	D25 Plainfield s/s – Chesterfield	
Southwick		Vines – Sheep Pasture Rd.
Springfield	Vines – Liberty St.	Vines – Tapley St.; Porter Lake Dr.
Westfield	D6 Strathmore – West Rd.	
West Springfield	D54 Piper s/s – Cayenne St.	D45 Piper s/s – Conn. River Vines – Trull Ave.; Ashley Ave.

### Transmission

#### 2006 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch Up Locations
Agawam		De-energized Sections of T-6
Ashfield	WT-01 Berkshire – Ashfield WT-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield	
Becket		T22 Woodland - Granville
Blandford		T22 Woodland - Granville
Conway	WT-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield	
Dalton	WT-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York	
Deerfield	WT-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield	
Easthampton		T20 Midway - Elm
Erving	WT-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield	
Granville		T10 Cobble Mt – Elm T17 Blandford - Southwick
Greenfield	WT-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield	
Hancock	WT-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York	
Hinsdale	WT-01 Berkshire – Ashfield WT-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York	
Lanesborough	WT-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York	
Lee		T11 Pleasant Tap T22 Woodland - Granville

		T26 Doreen - Woodland
Lenox		T3 Oswald Tap T26 Doreen - Woodland
Montague	WT-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield	
Northfield	WT-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield	
Otis		T22 Woodland – Granville
Peru	WT-01 Berkshire - Ashfield	
Pittsfield	WT-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York	T3 Oswald Tap T15 Doreen – GE, Silver Lake T26 Doreen - Woodland
Plainfield	WT-01 Berkshire - Ashfield	
Russell		T10 Cobble Mt – Elm T22 Woodland – Granville
Shelburne	WT-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield	
Southampton		T20 Midway - Elm
Southwick		T17 Blandford - Southwick
Westfield		T4 Cobble Mt – Pochassic T10 Cobble Mt – Elm T20 Midway – Elm
Windsor	WT-01 Berkshire - Ashfield	

### **Public Review**

The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), in particular, seeks the verification of sensitive area locations reported in the YOP. The Department itself has a limited ability to survey the geography, land use, and the water supplies in all the communities through which the rights-of-ways are located. Municipalities, however, have most of this information readily available, and the particular knowledge with which to better certify the sensitive areas in their communities. Therefore, the Department requests and urges the assistance of the "affected" municipalities in reviewing the completeness and accuracy of the maps contained in the submitted document. The DAR has established the following procedures for this review.

Yearly Operational Plans (YOP's) and a copy of this notice will be sent by the applicant to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health (or designated health agent) and to the head of government (mayor, city manager, chair of the board of selectmen) of each municipality where herbicides are to be applied along the rights-of-ways during the calendar year 2006. Municipal agencies and officials will have forty-five (45) days following receipt of the YOP to review the maps contained in the document that indicate the location of "sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field" for inaccuracies and omissions. "Sensitive areas" will be defined as in Section 11.02, and exclude wetlands which are to be delineated "in the field" as described in the applicant's approved Vegetation Management Plan (VMP).

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the YOP to the appropriate official(s) in the municipality qualified to certify the accuracy of sensitive area locations as indicated on the maps. The

maps should be corrected and returned to the applicant, also a copy of the maps with these corrections indicated should be sent to the DAR to the addressed listed below, within the forty-five day review period. If a city or town needs more time to carry out this review, it should send a written request for an extension to the DAR and cite why there is "good cause" for requesting additional time.

All corrections will be required to be made by the applicant, and corrected maps sent back to the city/town before the YOP can be considered "approved" by the Department for vegetation maintenance in that municipality. Any dispute on the part of the applicant regarding corrections made by municipal authorities should be indicated in writing to the Department and to the city/town which requested the disputed changes within fifteen (15) days of receipt of that request. The Department will decide whether or not the YOP should be approved without the requested changes. The DAR will consider the "final approval" of the YOP individually for each municipality.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicant's submission of this YOP within the forty-five day public review period will be considered by the DAR to indicate agreement by municipal officials with the sensitive area demarcations as provided by the applicant in their YOP.

Any questions or comments on the information provided in this Notice and the procedures established for the municipal review as outlined above, should be addressed to:

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

Any additional questions or comments on any information provided as part of the proposed YOP should be addressed in writing to:

Anthony Johnson, Supervisor—Transmission Vegetation Management  
Northeast Utilities  
P. O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

A copy should also be sent to the Rights-of-Way Program at the above address.

**COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS Friday, December 23, 2005**

**Kehoe, Barbara (ENV)**

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**From:** McClean, Michael (AGR)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2005 8:06 AM  
**To:** Kehoe, Barbara (ENV)  
**Subject:** NU Eniv Monitor Notice

Dear Ms. Kehoe:

Please post the attached notice in the Environmental Monitor due to be published on November 9, 2005.

Thank you,  
Mike McClean

RECEIVED  
OCT 26 2005  
MEPA