



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
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DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

IAN BOWLES
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES
Acting Commissioner

NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 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 the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in these municipalities:

Ashland, Auburn, Becket, Blandford, Boston, Brimfield, Brookline, Charlton, Chicopee, Framingham, Grafton, Hopkinton, Lee, Ludlow, Millbury, Montgomery, Natick, Newton, Otis, Oxford, Palmer, Russell, Southborough, Stockbridge, Sturbridge, Upton, Warren, Wayland, West Springfield, West Stockbridge, Westborough, Westfield, Weston, Wilbraham

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 Massachusetts Turnpike Authority as submitted by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, 668 South Avenue Weston, Massachusetts 02493.

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

Wednesday, May 16, 2007: Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main St. Veteran's Memorial Hall, Sturbridge 10:30 AM–12:30 PM

Thursday, May 17, 2007: UMASS EASTERN EXTENSION CENTER-WALTHAM FIELD STATION 240 Beaver Street, Waltham. 10:00 AM–12:30 PM

Plans 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:

Linda Smith
Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
668 South Avenue
Weston, Massachusetts 02193

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Pesticide Bureau, during regular business hours. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Boston Public Library: 700 Boylston Street Boston
Millbury Public Library: 128 Elm Street, Millbury
Joshua Hyde Public Library (Sturbridge Public Library) Main Street

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 Massachusetts Turnpike Authority VMP until the close of business: Friday, June 8, 2007

Commentary should be sent to:

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