



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



MITT ROMNEY
Governor

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
Secretary

DOUGLAS P. GILLESPIE
Commissioner

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 power line rights-of-way (ROW), a five 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 YOP for NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation (NSTAR) prepared by :

Christopher J. Fallon
NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation
One NSTAR Way, SE370
Westwood, MA 02090-9230

NSTAR's ROW's 143, 144, 243, 244, 340, 342, 345, 381, 5, 8-2, 8-3 and 16 in the towns of Acushnet, New Bedford, Dartmouth, Marshfield, Duxbury, Kingston, Bourne, Falmouth, Sandwich, Barnstable, Mashpee, Winchester, Woburn, Burlington, Sudbury, Wayland, Weston, Waltham, Lexington, Burlington, Whitman, East Bridgewater, Hanson, Halifax, Plympton, Kingston and Plymouth in the year 2006.

The intended vegetation control program will be consistent with NSTAR'S VMP and uses and Integrated Vegetation Management approach. In accordance with the guidelines set forth in NSTAR'S VMP and YOP, herbicides will be selectively applied to target vegetation by licensed/certified applicators carrying backpack or hand held application equipment.

NSTAR will only use herbicides recommended by DAR for use in Sensitive Areas. Pursuant to 333 CMR 11.04, no herbicides will be applied within ten feet of any water course, or water body; within 400 feet of any municipal water supply well; within 100 feet of any surface water utilized as a public water supply, or within fifty feet of any private drinking water supply well.

Public notification, by registered mail, will be provided to each "affected" municipality at least twenty-one days prior to any herbicide application.

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.06 (2), NSTAR'S YOP includes the identification of target vegetation; methods of identifying, marking and protecting Sensitive Areas; application techniques; the herbicides, application rates, carriers and adjuvants proposed for use; alternative control measures, the names of the applicators and YOP supervisor; procedures for handling, mixing and loading herbicides; emergency resources including local, state and federal emergency telephone numbers; maps locating the ROWS and Sensitive Areas, and herbicide fact sheets and labels.

PUBLIC REVIEW

The DAR seeks to verify the location of Sensitive Areas defined in Section 11.02 (a-f) reported in the YOP. DAR itself has a limited ability to survey the geography, land use and water supplies in all the communities through which ROWs pass. Municipalities have most of this information readily available, and the particular knowledge with which to better certify the Sensitive Areas in their communities. DAR, therefore, requests, and urges the assistance of the "affected" municipalities in reviewing the completeness and accuracy of the maps contained in the submitted YOP.

DAR has established the following procedures for this review:

Copies of the YOP and this *Notice* will be sent by the applicant to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health (or designated health agent), and the Head of Government (Mayor, City Manager, Chair of the Board of Selectman) of each municipality where herbicides are to be applied along the ROWs during the calendar year of 2006. Municipal agencies and officials will have forty-five days, following receipt of the YOP, to review its map for inaccuracies and omissions in the location of "Sensitive Areas not readily identifiable in the field."

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the YOP to the appropriate official(s) in their municipality qualified to certify the accuracy of the Sensitive Areas indicated on the maps. The maps should then be "corrected" and returned to the applicant and a copy should be sent to DAR at the address 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 DAR and cite why there is a "good cause" for requesting additional time.

The applicant is required to make all corrections and the corrected maps will be sent back to the city/town that requested the disputed changes with fifteen days of receipt of the request. DAR will decide whether or not the YOP should be approved without the requested changes. DAR will consider the "final approval" of a YOP individually for each municipality.

The twenty-one day public review period of the Municipal ROW Notification Letter may serve concurrently with the forty-five day YOP review period in order to provide public notifications as required by section 11.07 of the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations, if the applicant has an approved VMP and if all the requisite city-town offices that received copies of the YOP completed their review and all corrections were duly made by the applicant and approved by DAR.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicants submission of the YOP within the forty-five day period will automatically be considered by DAR to indicate agreement by the municipal officials with the Sensitive Area demarcations provided by the applicant in their YOP.

The Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau now has the Private Well Registry online. Residences can go to www.mass.gov/agr then to the Rights-of-Way page and enter their well information into the Departments database.

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

ROW Program, Pesticide Bureau 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500 Boston, MA 02114-2151

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

Christopher J. Fallon
NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation
One NSTAR Way, SE370
Westwood, MA 02090-9230

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON Friday, June 2, 2006