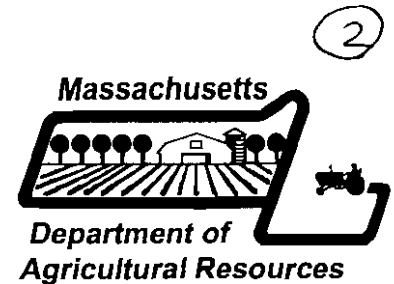


THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/AGR



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Governor

IAN A. BOWLES
Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

DOUGLAS W. PETERSEN
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 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 2009. 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 2009, 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 2009 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

2008 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations	Vines
Agawam	D58 – Bondi Island	D52 Agawam s/s—Suffield St.	Roadsides
Amherst	.	D1 Podick s/s-UMass D11 Lanes Quarry-Bay Rd	Roadsides
Becket			Roadsides
Bernardston			Roadsides
Blandford	D34 Blandford – East Otis		Roadsides
Conway		D24 Deerfield-Conway	Roadsides
Dalton			Roadsides
Deerfield		D24 Deerfield-Conway	Roadsides
Easthampton	D3 Midway - Easthampton		Roadsides
Gill			Roadsides
Granville	D55 Southwick - Sodom		Roadsides
Greenfield	D19 Montague - Franklin	D12 Cumberland s/s-Gardner Falls D16 Cumberland s/s-Greenfield D21 Montague s/s-Overland	Roadsides
Hadley		D1 Podick s/s-UMass	Roadsides
Hatfield			Roadsides
Lanesborough			Roadsides
Lee	D29 Pleasant -- Donovan D31 Donovan – Woodland D32 Woodland - Lenox		Roadsides
Lenox	D38 Oswald – East New Lenox D32 Woodland - Lenox		Roadsides
Longmeadow			Roadsides
Ludlow		D69 Center – Lyon D50 Red Bridge line	Roadsides
Montague	D19 Montague - Franklin	D21 Montague s/s-Overland D22 Lake Pleasant Tap	Roadsides

Northfield			Roadsides
Otis	D34 Blandford – East Otis		Roadsides
Pittsfield	D42 Clark Road – North Street D38 Oswald – East New Lenox D33 Doreen - Dorchester	D37 Oswald s/s- Rt. 20	Roadsides
Richmond			Roadsides
Russell			Roadsides
Shelburne		D12 Cumberland s/s-Gardner Falls	Roadsides
Southampton			Roadsides
Southwick	D55 Southwick - Sodom		Roadsides
Springfield			Roadsides
Sunderland			Roadsides
Tyringham			Roadsides
West Springfield	D-58 Bondi Island	D56 Piper s/s-Morgan Rd. D54 Piper s/s-Cayenne St.	Roadsides
Westfield			Roadsides
Whately			Roadsides
Wilbraham			Roadsides

Transmission

2009 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations
Agawam		WT-22 Elm – Agawam – West Springfield Station – Piper - CT River WT-24 – Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow - CT Line
Becket	WT-33 Woodland - Blandford	
Blandford	WT-33 Blandford - Southwick WT-33 Woodland - Blandford	
Chicopee		WT-21 Midway – Mount Tom – Fairmont – Holyoke – CT River WT-23 Orchard – East Springfield – Ludlow Lines
East Longmeadow		WT-24 Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow –CT Line
Easthampton	WT-32 Midway - Elm	WT-21 Midway – Mount Tom – Fairmont – Holyoke – CT River
Granville	WT-33 Blandford – Southwick WT-32 Cobble Mt. - Pochassic	

Hampden		WT-24 Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow – CT Line
Holyoke		WT-21 Midway – Mount Tom – Fairmont – Holyoke – CT River
Lee	WT-31 Pleasant Tap WT-31 Doreen – Woodland WT-33 Woodland - Blandford	
Lenox	WT-31 Oswald Tap WT-31 Doreen - Woodland	
Longmeadow		WT-24 Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow –CT Line
Ludlow		WT-23 Orchard – East Springfield – Ludlow Lines
Otis	WT-33 Woodland - Blandford	
Pittsfield	WT-31 Oswald Tap WT-31 Doreen – GE – Silver Lake WT-31 Doreen - Woodland	
Russell	WT-33 Blandford - Southwick	
South Hadley		WT-21 Midway – Mount Tom – Fairmont – Holyoke – CT River
Southampton	WT-32 Midway - Elm	
Southwick	WT-33 Blandford - Southwick	
Springfield		WT-23 Orchard – East Springfield – Ludlow Lines
West Springfield		WT-22 Elm – Agawam – West Springfield Station – Piper - CT River
Westfield	WT-32 Cobble Mt. – Pochassic WT-32 Cobble Mt. – Elm WT-32 Midway - Elm	WT-22 Elm – Agawam – West Springfield Station – Piper - CT River
Wilbraham		WT -24 Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow – CT Line

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 2009. 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 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 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, III
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.

The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) YOP until the close of business: December 24, 2008.