



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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 Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
 Lieutenant Governor

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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 Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

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 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 Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) as submitted by the Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company).

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

City Hall, Hearing Room, 210 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm on November 14, 2008

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:

Anthony W. Johnson III
Supervisor – Transmission Vegetation Management
Northeast Utilities System
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

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:

Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Northampton, Massachusetts

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 Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) VMP until the close of business: December 24, 2008.

Commentary should be sent to:

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