

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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CHARLES D. BAKER
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Lt. Governor

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Secretary

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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 CSX Railroad proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way throughout Massachusetts:

Auburn, Becket, Berlin, Bolton, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Chester, Clinton, Dalton, East Brookfield, Framingham, Hinsdale, Huntington, Lancaster, Leicester, Leominster, Marlborough, Middlefield, Monson, Montgomery, Northborough, Oxford, Palmer, Pittsfield, Richmond, Russell, Southborough, Spencer, Springfield, Sterling, Warren, Washington, West Brookfield, West Springfield, West Stockbridge, Westfield, Wilbraham, Worcester

PUBLIC HEARING 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 CSX Railroad Vegetation Management Plan.

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

**Friday, April 24, 2020
Westfield Town Hall
59 Court Street, Room 201, Westfield MA
from 11:00am – 12:30 pm.**

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:

Stephen Herzog
AMEC Foster Wheeler
271 Mill Road
Chelmsford MA 01824

The proposed VMP is posted at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html> for reviewing. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

Springfield Central Library, 220 State Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

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 CSX Railroad VMP until the close of business: Friday, April 24, 2020

Commentary should be sent to:

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

Comments must be received by close of business (5pm): April 24, 2020