

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Secretary

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Commissioner

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 **SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY PAN AM RAILWAYS** propose to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

Adams Andover Ashburnham Athol Ayer Bernardston Buckland Charlemont Chelmsford Chicopee Clinton Conway Deerfield Devens Easthampton Erving Fitchburg Florida Gardner Greenfield Groton Harvard Hatfield Holyoke Lancaster Lawrence Littleton Lowell Montague North Adams Northampton Northfield Orange Peabody Phillipston Rowe Royalston Salem Shelburne Springfield Sterling Templeton Tewksbury Tyngsborough Wendell West Boylston Westford Westminster Whately Williamstown Winchendon Worcester

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for **SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY PAN AM RAILWAYS** as submitted by: Keith Morris

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held via ZOOM Conference:

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

11:30am-12:00pm

Meeting ID: 830 9468 8576

Password: 527914

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83094688576?pwd=cGNvbnhNLzFuamZ6SmUwR25nNDkydz09>

Plans Available for Review Prior to Public 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:

Keith L. Morris
622 Spring Street
Leeds, Massachusetts 01053
Email: keithlmorris@comcast.net

The proposed VMP are available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Crop and Pest Services web site <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html> and also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Peabody Institute Public Library, 82 Main St, Peabody
Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square Worcester

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, SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL RAILWAY COMPANY PAN AM RAILWAYS VMP until the close of business (5pm), Monday, December 7, 2020**

Commentary should be sent to:

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