



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
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Governor

TIMOTHY MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

IAN BOWLES
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES
Acting 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 rights of way, a 5 year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) must be approved by the (DAR) Department of Agricultural Resources. 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 (YOP) has been submitted for: The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. This plan has been prepared by and submitted to the Department by: Linda Smith, Massachusetts Turnpike Authority.

Municipalities identified in the YOP as locations where treatment of Rights of Way with herbicides will be carried out in calendar year 2007 are:

Ashland, Auburn, Becket, Blandford, Boston, Brimfield, Brookline, Charlton, Chicopee, Framingham, Grafton, Hopkinton, Lee, Ludlow, Millbury, Montgomery, Natick, Newton, Otis, Oxford, Palmer, Russell, Southborough, Stockbridge, Sturbridge, Upton, Warren, Wayland, West Springfield, West Stockbridge, Westborough, Westfield, Weston, Wilbraham

The applicant has described in the YOP the aforementioned Rights of Way as sites that are scheduled for treatment.

Public Review

The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) in particular seeks the verification of sensitive area locations reported in the Yearly Operational Plan (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 way 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) 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 way during the calendar year 2007. 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 11.04

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the YOP to the appropriate official(s) in their 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 a "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 (15) fifteen days of receipt of the request. The Department will decide whether or not YOP should be approved without the requested changes. The final (21) twenty-one days of the public review period can serve concurrently to provide public notification 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 which have received a notification or copies of the YOP have completed their review and corrections have been duly made by the applicant and approved by the Department.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicant's submission of the 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 should be addressed to:

Linda S. Smith
Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
668 South Ave
Weston, MA 02193

Copies of all comments and questions should be also sent to:

Michael W. McClean
Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS: Friday, June 8, 2007