



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
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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 2007. 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 2007, 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 2007 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

2007 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations
Agawam	D44 Eastern States D47 Bear Hole & Tap	D64 Silver S/S – Cooper St.
Amherst	D4 Midway – So. Amherst D71 Podick – Montague Rd. Vines: Pine St.	Vines: East Hadley Rd., South East St., McClellan St., North Pleasant St., East Pleasant St.
Ashfield	Vines: Baptist Corner Rd.	
Buckland	Vines: Clesson Brook Rd.	Vines: Ashfield Rd.
Chesterfield		D7 Huntington – Chesterfield D25 Plainfield s/s - Chesterfield
Conway	Vines: Academy Hill Rd., Graves Rd. Hoosac Rd., Maple St., Whately Rd., Roaring Brook Rd., Old Cricket Hill	
Cummington		D25 Plainfield S/S – Chesterfield
Dalton	D40 Crane Tap – Dalton s/s	
Deerfield	D13 Cumberland – Route 5 Vines: Hoosac Rd., Lee Rd., Mill Village Rd., Sand Gully North, Still Water Rd., Upper Rd.	D14 Cumberland s/s – S. Deerfield D15 Warner Brothers tap Vines: Sunderland Rd.
Easthampton	D4 Midway – So. Amherst	D2 Midway s/s – Easthampton (Mechanic St.) D3 Midway S/S -- Easthampton
Gill	D18 Montague – Mt. Herman	
Granby	D4 Midway – So. Amherst	
Greenfield	D13 Cumberland – Route 5 D68 Greenfield – Main St.	D14 Cumberland S/S – S. Deerfield D23 Montague S/S – Mountain Rd.
Hadley	D4 Midway – So. Amherst	Vines: Huntington Rd.
Huntington		D7 Huntington – Chesterfield D9 Huntington – Route 20

Lee	D41 Pleasant – Fairview Brush: Tyringham Rd, - from high-line crossing to Tyringham town line Vines: Canal St., East St., Marble St, Greylock St.	Vines: Maple St.
Lenox	D39 Pomeroy – E. New Lenox	
Ludlow	Vines: Kendall St.	Vines: West St.
Montague	D18 Montague – Mt. Herman	D23 Montague S/S – Mountain Rd.
Northfield	Vines: Mt. Herman Station Rd	
Pittsfield	D39 Pomeroy – E. New Lenox D40 Crane Tap – Dalton S/S Vines: West St	Vines: South St.
Plainfield		D25 Plainfield S/S – Chesterfield
Russell	Brush: Route 20 – from Waubeeka to Westfield Town Line.	
South Hadley	D4 Midway – So. Amherst	
Springfield	Brush: off Liberty St (Springfield Plaza Taps). Vines: Wilbraham Rd.	Vines: Liberty St.
Westfield		D6 Rt. 20 – West Rd.
West Springfield	D44 Eastern States D47 Bear Hole & Tap	D54 Piper S/S – Cayenne St.

Transmission

2007 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations
Amherst	T-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland	
Ashfield		T-01 Berkshire – Ashfield T-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield
Belchertown	T-11 Ludlow – Shutesbury Town Line	
Cheshire		T-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York
Chicopee	T-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland	
Conway		T-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield
Dalton		T-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York
Deerfield		T-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield

Erving	T-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line	T-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield
Granby	T-11 Ludlow – Shutesbury Town Line T-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland	
Greenfield	T-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland	T-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield
Hancock		T-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York
Hinsdale		T-01 Berkshire – Ashfield T-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York
Lanesborough		T-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York
Leverett	T-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague – Cumberland T-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line	
Montague	T-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague – Cumberland T-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line	T-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield
Northfield	T-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line	T-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield
Pelham	T-11 Ludlow – Shutesbury Town Line	
Peru		T-01 Berkshire - Ashfield
Pittsfield		T-02 Berkshire – Doreen – NEPCo – New York
Plainfield		T-01 Berkshire - Ashfield
Shelburne		T-03 Northfield – Cumberland - Ashfield
Shutesbury	T-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire Line	
South Hadley	T-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland	
Warwick	T-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line	
Windsor		T-01 Berkshire - Ashfield

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 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 11.02, 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 addressed 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.

Comment period ends at the close of business on Monday, February 5, 2007