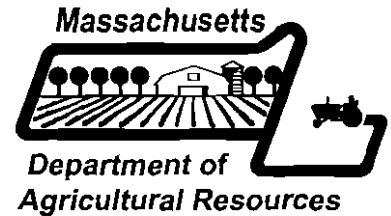


THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND  
 ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
**Department of Agricultural Resources**  
 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114  
 617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/AGR



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
 Governor

IAN A. BOWLES  
 Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
 Lieutenant Governor

DOUGLAS W. PETERSEN  
 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 community is advised that the **City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley

**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 Holyoke Gas & Electric, as submitted by: Ms. Diane M.L. Mas of Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. and Mr. Charles L. Martel of Holyoke Gas & Electric.

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

**Friday, January 18, 2004 at 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM**

**First Floor Conference Room, 99 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts**

**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:

Mr. Charles L. Martel  
 Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator  
 City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department  
 99 Suffolk Street  
 Holyoke, MA 01040-5082

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 library:

Holyoke Public Library, 335 Maple Street, Holyoke, 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 City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department VMP until the close of business Thursday, February 7, 2008**

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