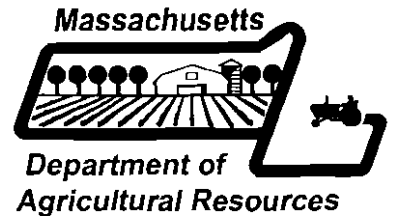


THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
 ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
 617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/AGR



DEVAL L. PATRICK
 Governor

IAN A. BOWLES
 Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
 Lieutenant Governor

SCOTT J. SOARES
 Acting 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 Town of Southbridge is advised that the Town of Southbridge proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

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 the Town of Southbridge, as submitted by: Mr. Ronald E. Trudeau, Operations Manager, Department of Public Works

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

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM

Rice Conference Room, 1st floor, Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, 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. Ronald E. Trudeau
 Southbridge Department of Public Works
 Operations Manager
 41 Elm Street
 Southbridge, MA 01550

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:

Jacob Edward's Public Library, 236 Main Street, Southbridge, 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 Town of Pepperell 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