



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

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NOTICE: PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR 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 National Grid USA proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

Abington, Adams, Amesbury, Andover, Ashburnham, Athol, Attleboro, Auburn, Avon, Ayer, Barre, Belchertown, Bellingham, Berlin, Bernardston, Beverly, Billerica, Blackstone, Boxford, Boylston, Bridgewater, Brimfield, Brockton, Brookfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Charlton, Chelmsford, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Clinton, Cohasset, Colrain, Conway, Danvers, Deerfield, Dighton, Douglas, Dracut, Dudley, Dunstable, East Bridgewater, East Brookfield, Easthampton, East Longmeadow, Easton, Egremont, Erving, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Florida, Foxborough, Franklin, Gardner, Georgetown, Gill, Gloucester, Grafton, Granby, Great Barrington, Greenfield, Groton, Groveland, Halifax, Hampden, Hancock, Hanson, Hanover, Hardwick, Harvard, Haverhill, Heath, Hingham, Holbrook, Holden, Hopedale, Hubbardston, Hull, Lancaster, Lanesborough, Lawrence, Lee, Leicester, Lenox, Leominster, Leverett, Leyden, Littleton, Lowell, Ludlow, Lunenburg, Lynn, Lynnfield, Malden, Mansfield, Marlborough, Medford, Medway, Melrose, Mendon, Merrimac, Methuen, Middleton, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Monroe, Monson, Montague, Newbury, Newburyport, New Salem, North Adams, Northampton, North Andover, North Attleborough, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, North Reading, Norton, Norwell, Oakham, Orange, Oxford, Palmer, Paxton, Peabody, Pelham, Pembroke, Pepperell, Petersham, Phillipston, Plainville, Princeton, Reading, Rehoboth, Revere, Richmond, Rockland, Rockport, Rowe, Rowley, Royalston, Rutland, Salem, Salisbury, Saugus, Scituate, Seekonk, Sheffield, Shelburne, Shirley, Shrewsbury, Shutesbury, Somerset, Southborough, Southbridge, Spencer, Sterling, Stockbridge, Stoughton, Sturbridge, Sunderland, Sutton, Swampscott, Swansea, Templeton, Tewksbury, Topsfield, Tyngsborough, Upton, Uxbridge, Wakefield, Ware, Warren, Warwick, Webster, Wendell, Wenham, Westborough, West Boylston, West Bridgewater, West Brookfield, Westford, Westminster, West Newbury, Westport, West Stockbridge, Weymouth, Wilbraham, Williamstown, Wilmington, Winchendon, Winthrop, Whitman, Worcester, Wrentham.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct regional hearings to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the National Grid USA as submitted by the National Grid USA.

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

Wednesday, January 28, 2009: City Hall, Hearing Room, 210 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Friday, January 30, 2009: Town Hall, Room #9, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, Massachusetts from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Tuesday, February 3, 2009: Town Hall, Conference Room 106, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Plans Available for Public Review Prior to 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:

Dawn Travaline
Manager, Forestry Strategy
National Grid USA
25 Research Drive
Westborough, MA 01582

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 libraries:

Memorial Library, 175 Middlesex Avenue, Massachusetts
Franklin Public Library, Main Street, Franklin, Massachusetts
Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Northampton, 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 National Grid USA VMP until the close of business: Friday February 27, 2009.

Commentary should be sent to:

Michael W. McClean
Rights-of-Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151