



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
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DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

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Acting Commissioner

NOTICE

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 municipalities are advised that Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company proposes to utilize herbicides to treat selected areas on their Rights-of-Way in these municipalities:

Acton, Adams, Agawam, Andover, Arlington, Ashland, Auburn, Bedford, Bellingham, Billerica, Blackstone, Bolton, Brimfield, Burlington, Carlisle, Charlton, Chelmsford, Cheshire, Clinton, Concord, Danvers, Devens, Douglas, Dracut, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Essex, Everett, Fitchburg, Framingham, Gloucester, Grafton, Granville, Hamilton, Hampden, Haverhill, Holland, Holyoke, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lancaster, Lanesborough, Lawrence, Lee, Leominster, Lexington, Lincoln, Longmeadow, Lowell, Lunenburg, Lynn, Lynnfield, Malden, Marlborough, Maynard, Medford, Melrose, Mendon, Methuen, Millbury, Monson, North Adams, North Reading, Northampton, Northbridge, Otis, Oxford, Peabody, Pittsfield, Reading, Revere, Richmond, Salem, Sandisfield, Saugus, Southampton, Southborough, Southbridge, Southwick, Spencer, Stockbridge, Sturbridge, Sudbury, Sutton, Tewksbury, Tolland, Upton, Uxbridge, Wales, Wakefield, Wayland, Wenham, Westfield, Westford, Weston, Whitinsville, Wilmington, Winchester, Woburn, Worcester

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 Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company.

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

Tuesday, April 24, 2007: Town Hall, Lobby, 6 Main Street, Stockbridge, Massachusetts from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007: Town Hall, Small Conference Room, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, Massachusetts from 10:30 am – 12:00 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:

Mr. Stephen Morawski
Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company
8 Anngina Drive
Enfield, CT 06082
Tel: (860) 763-6012

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:

Wilmington Memorial Library, 175 Middlesex Ave, Wilmington
Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St., Spencer
Stockbridge Library, Main St., Stockbridge

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 Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company VMP until the close of business: Friday, May 25, 2007.

Commentary should be sent to:

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