



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
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 2008. 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 2008, 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

2008 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations
Agawam	D52 Agawam s/s—Suffield St. Vines: Bridge St.	D44 Eastern States D47 Bear Hole & Tap
Amherst	D1 Podick s/s-UMass D11 Lanes Quarry-Bay Rd.	D4 Midway – So. Amherst Vines: Pine St.
Ashfield		Vines: Baptist Corner Rd.
Buckland		Vines: Clesson Brook Rd.
Colrain	Brush: Off-road line from Green River Road to Milton Road	
Conway	D24 Deerfield-Conway	Vines: Academy Hill Rd., Graves Rd. Hoosac Rd., Maple St., Whately Rd., Roaring Brook Rd., Old Cricket Hill
Dalton		D40 Crane Tap – Dalton s/s
Deerfield	D24 Deerfield-Conway	D13 Cumberland – Route 5 Vines: Hoosac Rd., Lee Rd., Mill Village Rd., Sand Gully North, Still Water Rd., Upper Rd.
Easthampton		D4 Midway – So. Amherst
Gill		D18 Montague – Mt. Herman
Granby		D4 Midway – So. Amherst

Greenfield	D12 Cumberland s/s-Gardner Falls D16 Cumberland s/s-Greenfield D21 Montague s/s-Overland	D13 Cumberland – Route 5 D68 Greenfield – Main St.
Hadley	D1 Podick s/s-UMass	D4 Midway – So. Amherst
Lee		D41 Pleasant – Fairview Brush: Tyringham Rd, - from high-line crossing to Tyringham town line Vines: Canal St., East St., Marble St, Greylock St.
Lenox		D39 Pomeroy – E. New Lenox
Longmeadow	Vines: Williams Street, Mill Road, Emerson Road	
Ludlow	D69 Center – Lyon D50 Red Bridge line Vines: West St.	Vines: Kendall St.
Montague	D21 Montague s/s-Overland D22 Lake Pleasant Tap	D18 Montague – Mt. Herman
Northfield		Vines: Mt. Herman Station Rd
Pittsfield	D37 Oswald s/s- Rt. 20	D39 Pomeroy – E. New Lenox D40 Crane Tap – Dalton s/s Vines: West St
Russell		Brush: Route 20 – from Waubeeka to Westfield town line.
Shelburne	D12 Cumberland s/s-Gardner Falls	
South Hadley		D4 Midway – So. Amherst
Springfield	Plumtree Road	Brush: off Liberty St (Spfld Plaza Taps). Vines: Wilbraham Rd.
West Springfield	D56 Piper s/s-Morgan Rd. D54 Piper s/s-Cayenne St.	D44 Eastern States D47 Bear Hole & Tap

West Springfield Vine Work Locations		
Street	Pole	Description
Agawam Ave.	409/1	Riser pole to pump station - vines up pole to top

		of riser
Agawam Ave.	409/6-2	West Springfield Auto Salvage – vertical corner pole covered with vines
Amostown Rd.	14B/77	Air break switch pole near Country View - vines up guy wire
Ashley Ave. @ Riverdale St.	18/1	Vines up corner pole near Highway Dept. garage behind Pride gas station
Birnie Ave	26	Vines just starting up guy wire
Birnie Ave	34	Vines ¼ up pole
Birnie Ave	40/44	Vines halfway up guy wire
Birnie Ave	40/55	Vines up guywire into primary
Bridge St. @ Front St.		Riser pole for bridge crossing - vines ½ way up pole
Brush Hill Ave	59/11	Vines starting at base of pole
Brush Hill Ave	59/35	Pole at edge of ROW - vines up pole and guy wire
Circuit Ave.	19	Near former National Metals Facility - vines ¾ way up guy wire
Dewey St. (near Sikes)	5	Vines ½ way up guy wire
Elm St. @ Riverdale St.		Corner pole near McDonald's - vines just starting back up guy wire
Farmer Brown Ln	1145/9-1	Tollbooth transformer pole - vines up guy wire to top of transformer
Farmer Brown Ln @ Prospect		First pole on Farmer Brownn - pole engulfed in vines (looks like recently cut)
Front St. @ Second St.	128B/4	Vines up guy wire into primary space
Highland Ave	159B/2	Vines up guy wire into primary
Mass Ave. @ Sagamore	7	Vines up guy wire
Mass Ave.@ Morton		Corner pole in woods near Cook's Park parking lot. Looks like fresh growth at pole top, recut?
Morgan Rd. (21N4 ROW)	382/16	First pole off Morgan pole (211/45) - Vines up guy wire (riser pole to house)
Palmer Ave.	37/24	Behind Longview Fiber - vertical corner pole - vines up guy wire to primary
Pease Ave. (House #46)	248/5	Vines just starting at base of pole
Piper Rd. @ Morgan Rd.	255B/72	Vines starting up base of air break switch pole
Prospect Ave	1145/8	First turnpike riser - small vines halfway up guy wire
Prospect Ave	1145/9	Tap to tollbooth - Pole top covered in vines
Riverdale St.	272/162	Vines halfway up guy wire
Riverdale St.	272/164	Brightside tap - vines up guy wire.
Riverdale St.	272/164-1	Brightside stepdown - vines up pole into primary
Roger's Ave.	277B/27	Pole engulfed in vines
Second St.	283/8	Vines just starting up pole
South Boulevard	292/13 - 14	Near 16C1814LS recloser - vines heavy on secondary mid span and getting into primary (need extensive cutting of all vines on ground in area)
Union St. Ext.	308B/34-4	Behind Plastic Packaging near Energy USA Propane- Vertical corner pole engulfed in vines

Westfield St. (Between Belmont & Roger's)	321/110	Vines up guy wire - pole top covered
Westfield St. (Westfield end)	321/181	Vines up guy wire - pole top covered
Westfield St. (Westfield end)	321/182	Vines starting up guy wire
Westfield St. (Westfield end)	321/183	Vines up guy wire to pole top
Westfield St. (Westfield end)	321/184	Vines up guy wire - pole top covered
Westfield St. @ Charles Ave.	321/164	Vines starting up guy wire
Windsor Ave.	330B/13	Pole top covered in vines

Transmission

2008 Scheduled Vegetation Maintenance Work

TOWN	Work Locations	Touch-up Locations
Agawam	WT-22 Elm – Agawam – West Springfield Station – Piper - CT River WT-24 – Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow - CT Line	
Amherst		WT-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland
Belchertown		WT-11 Ludlow – Shutesbury Town Line
Chicopee	WT-21 Midway – Mount Tom – Fairmont – Holyoke – CT River WT-23 Orchard – East Springfield – Ludlow Lines	WT-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland
East Longmeadow	WT-24 Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow –CT Line	
Easthampton	WT-21 Midway – Mount Tom – Fairmont – Holyoke – CT River	
Erving		WT-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line
Granby		WT-11 Ludlow – Shutesbury Town Line WT-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland
Greenfield		WT-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland
Hampden	WT-24 Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow – CT Line	
Holyoke	WT-21 Midway – Mount Tom – Fairmont – Holyoke – CT River	
Leverett		WT-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague – Cumberland WT-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line
Longmeadow	WT-24 Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow –CT Line	
Ludlow	WT-23 Orchard – East Springfield – Ludlow Lines	
Montague		WT-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague – Cumberland WT-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State

		Line
Northfield		WT-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line
Pelham		WT-11 Ludlow – Shutesbury Town Line
Shutesbury		WT-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line
South Hadley	WT-21 Midway – Mount Tom – Fairmont – Holyoke – CT River	WT-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland
Springfield	WT-23 Orchard – East Springfield – Ludlow Lines	
Sunderland		WT-12 Fairmont - Amherst – Montague - Cumberland
Warwick		WT-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line
Wendell		WT-13 Shutesbury Town Line – Northfield – New Hampshire State Line
West Springfield	WT-22 Elm – Agawam – West Springfield Station – Piper - CT River	
Westfield	WT-22 Elm – Agawam – West Springfield Station – Piper - CT River	
Wilbraham	WT -24 Agawam – Franconia – Ludlow – CT Line	

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 Wednesday, December 26, 2007