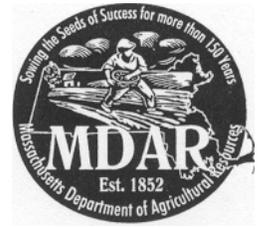




THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**Department of Agricultural Resources**  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114  
617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 [www.Mass.gov/AGR](http://www.Mass.gov/AGR)



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DOUGLAS P. GILLESPIE  
Commissioner

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 rights of way, a 5 year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) must be approved by the (DAR) Department of Agricultural Resources. 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 (YOP) has been submitted for: National Grid USA Service Company, Inc. This plan has been prepared by and submitted to the Department by: Mr. Thomas E. Sullivan, Manager, Transmission Forestry, National Grid USA Service Company.

Municipalities identified in the YOP as locations where treatment of Rights of Way with herbicides that will be carried out during the 12 month period beginning from the date of the YOP approval letter are:

Abington, Adams, Andover, Attleboro, Auburn, Ayer, Barre, Belchertown, Bellingham, Berlin, Berkley, Beverly, Boxford, Bridgewater, Brimfield, Brockton, Brookfield, Charlton, Cheshire, Clinton, Danvers, Dighton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Fall River, Foxboro, Franklin, Gardner, Georgetown, Great Barrington, Groton, Groveland, Hanover, Haverhill, Hingham, Holbrook, Holden, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lenox, Leicester, Leominster, Lowell, Lunenburg, Lynn, Mansfield, Medway, Methuen, Middleton, Milford, Millbury, Monson, North Andover, North Attleboro, Northborough, North Reading, Norton, Norwell, Oakham, Oxford, Palmer, Paxton, Peabody, Princeton, Rehoboth, Richmond, Rockland, Rowley, Rutland, Salem, Scituate, Seekonk, Sharon, Scheffield, Shirley, Somerset, Southborough, Southbridge, Spencer, Sterling, Sturbridge, Sutton, Swampscott, Swansea, Taunton, Tewksbury, Topsfield, Walpole, Warren, West Boylston, West Bridgewater, West Stockbridge, Weymouth, Whitman, Worcester, Wrentham

**PUBLIC REVIEW**

The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) in particular seeks the verification of sensitive area locations reported in the Yearly Operational Plan (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 way 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) 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 local

government (Mayor, City Manager, Chair of the Board of Selectmen) of each municipality where herbicides are to be applied along the rights of way during the a 12 month period that concludes 12 months from the date of the YOP approval. 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 a-f.

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the Yap to the appropriate official(s) in their 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 address 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 a "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 Yap 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 ( 15) fifteen days of receipt of the request. The Department will decide whether or not Yap should be approved without the requested changes. The DAR will consider the "final approval" of a Yap individually for each municipality .

The final (21) twenty-one days of the public review period can serve concurrently to provide public notification as required by section 11.07 of the Rights of Way Management regulations, if the applicant has an approved VMP and if all the requisite city/town offices which have received copies of the Yap have completed their review and corrections have been duly made by the applicant and approved by the Department.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicant's submission of the Yap 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 Yap .

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:

Right of Way Program, Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources, Pesticide Bureau 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151.

Any additional questions or comments on any information provided as part of the proposed Yap should be addressed in writing to:

Mr. Thomas E. Sullivan, Manager, Transmission Forestry, National Grid USA, 25 Research Drive,  
Westborough, Massachusetts 01582

A copy should be sent to Right of Way Program, at the address indicated above.

The comment period for National Grid, USA ends at the close of business Friday, January 6,2006