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

MDAR MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

CHARLES D. BAKER Governor | KARYN E. POLITO Lt. Governor | MATTHEW A. BEATON Secretary | ALISHA BOUCHARD Interim 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 following municipalities are advised that the **CSX Transportation, Inc.** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

Auburn, Becket, Berlin, Bolton, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Chester, Clinton, Dalton, East Brookfield, Framingham, Hinsdale, Huntington, Lancaster, Leicester, Leominster, Marlborough, Middlefield, Monson, Montgomery, Northborough, Oxford, Palmer, Pittsfield, Richmond, Russell, Southborough, Spencer, Springfield, Sterling, Warren, Washington, West Brookfield, West Springfield, West Stockbridge, Westfield, Wilbraham, Worcester.

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 **CSX Transportation Inc.** , as submitted by: AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc. 2 Robbins Road, Westford, MA 01886

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

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 11:00 AM until 12:30 PM @ the conference room located at Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources 101 University Drive, Suite C4 Amherst, MA

<u>Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:</u>

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 Herzog
AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc.
2 Robbins Rd
Westford, MA 01886

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:

Springfield Public Library, 220 State Street, Springfield
Worcester Public Library, Salem Square Worcester

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 CSX Transportation, Inc. VMP until the close of business Friday, April 10, 2015.**

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