

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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### **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 community is advised that the **Holyoke Gas & Electric Steam, Gas and Electrical Transmission and Distribution** proposed to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley

### **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 Holyoke Gas & Electric, as submitted by: Ms. Diane M.L. Mas of Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. and Mr. Charles L. Martel of Holyoke Gas & Electric.

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

**Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 11:00 AM until 12:30 PM**

**Holyoke Gas & Electric, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA**

### **Plans Available for Review Prior to Public 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. Charles L. Martel  
Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator  
City of Holyoke Gas & Electric Department  
99 Suffolk Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040-5082

The proposed VMP is also available for viewing at the Massachusetts Department Agricultural Resources website, [www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr). It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Holyoke Public Library, 335 Maple Street, Holyoke, 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 Holyoke Gas & Electric VMP until the close of business Friday, March 22, 2013.**

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