

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Commissioner

NOTICE: PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR 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 Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) proposes to utilize herbicides on their Rights-of-Way:

Ludlow, Hancock and Lanesborough

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 MMWEC Vegetation Management Plan, as submitted by the MMWEC.

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

Tuesday, December 1, 2015: MMWEC Administrative Office Building, Edison Conference Room, 327 Moody Street, Ludlow, Massachusetts from 11:00 am – 12:30 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:

Michael DiMauro
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company
327 Moody Street
Ludlow, MA 01056

Copy of the proposed VMP is available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at <http://www.mass.gov/agr/pesticides/rightofway/plans.htm> . It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Hubbard Memorial Library, 24 Center Street, Ludlow, MA 01056

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 MMWEC VMP until the close of business: Wednesday, December 23, 2015

Commentary should be sent to:

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