

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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DEVAL L. PATRICK  
Governor

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Secretary

GREGORY C. WATSON  
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 Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

Agawam, Amherst, Ashfield, Becket, Belchertown, Bernardston, Blandford, Buckland, Cheshire, Chester, Chesterfield, Chicopee, Colrain, Conway, Cumington, Dalton, Deerfield, Easthampton, East Longmeadow, Erving, Gill, Granby, Granville, Greenfield, Hadley, Hampden, Hancock, Hatfield, Hinsdale, Holyoke, Huntington, Lanesborough, Lee, Lenox, Leverett, Leyden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Middlefield, Montague, Montgomery, New Ashford, Northfield, Otis, Pelham, Peru, Pittsfield, Plainfield, Richmond, Russell, Sandisfield, Savoy, Sheburne, Shutesbury, Southampton, South Hadley, Southwick, Springfield, Stockbridge, Sunderland, Tolland, Warwick, Washington, Wendell, Westfield, Westhampton, West Springfield, Whately, Wilbraham, Windsor, Worthington

#### **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 Vegetation Management Plan for the Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) as submitted by the Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company).

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

City Hall, Hearing Room, 210 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm on December 13, 2013

#### **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:

Anthony W. Johnson III  
Supervisor – Transmission Vegetation Management  
Northeast Utilities System  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

Copy of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html>. The VMP will also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Northampton, 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 Northeast Utilities (Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Holyoke Water Power Company, Holyoke Power and Electric Company) VMP until the close of business: January 3, 2014.**

Commentary should be sent to:

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