

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



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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 TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

Buckland, Florida, Monroe

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 the TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc. as submitted by the TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc and prepared by Vegetation Control Service Inc.

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

Buckland Town Hall, Meeting Room 1, 17 State Street, Buckland , MA, Shelburne Falls on June 4, 2013 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:

David Murray, Environmental Specialist
TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc., Walpole Office
2 Killeen Street
North Walpole, NH 03609

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at www.mass.gov/agr. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Shelburne Free Public Library, 233 Shelburne Center Road, Shelburne Falls, 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 TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc VMP until the close of business: June 21, 2013.

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