

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

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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 community is advised that the **City of Worcester** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

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 City of Worcester, as submitted by Mr. Matthew Labovites, Assistant Commissioner of Operation for the City of Worcester Department of Public Works.

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

Friday, April 4, 2014 from 11:00am to 12:30pm

**Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks Headquarters, 20 East Worcester Street, 2nd Floor
Conference Room, Worcester, 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. Matthew Labovites
Assistant Commissioner of Operation
Department of Public Works & Parks
20 East Worcester Street
Worcester, MA 1604-3695

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html>

It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

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 City of Worcester VMP until the close of business Friday, April 25, 2014**

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