

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

NOTICE

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 municipalities are advised that the MassDOT Highway Division District 1 proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in these municipalities:

Becket, Blandford, Lee, Otis, Russell, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge

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 MassDOT Highway Division District 1 as submitted by the MassDOT Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

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

Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 11:00am to 12:30pm at: District One Office, MassDOT, Highway Division, 270 Main Street, Lenox, MA

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:

George Batchelor
Supervisor of Landscape Design
MassDOT Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

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

Otis Free Public Library, 43 North Main Street, Otis, Massachusetts 01253

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 Massachusetts Highway Department's VMP until the close of business: **Friday, January 6, 2012.**

Commentary should be sent to:

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