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.. Pos) 247 Station Drive, SE-370 Westwood, MA 02090

William Hayes Supervisor

Electric Transmission Vegetation Management

February 03, 2020

Certified mail-return receipt requested

Dear Municipal Official:

This letter is to inform you that Eversource Energy, Eastern MA intends to selectively apply herbicides in 2020 along the power line rights-of-way that pass through your municipality. This treatment is conducted as a component of an integrated vegetation management program that uses the appropriate mechanical and/or herbicides treatments to control vegetation in order to encourage the growth of healthy early successional ecological communities that benefit wildlife while allowing for the safe delivery of electricity to our customers.

Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's 2018-2022 Five-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA is posted at the following websites:

http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/about-us/doing-business-with-us/municipal-

officials/transmission-vegetation-management

If you would like a hard copy, please contact us with this request.

Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's 2020 Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA is also posted at the above websites. If you would like a hard copy, please contact us with this request.

Please review the YOP map(s) that locate the ROW corridors and the plotted location of known sensitive areas including public and private drinking water supplies. If there are any additional sensitive areas located on or near the ROWs, please advise us as soon as possible so a permanent record can be established, and appropriate field protective actions implemented. We particularly rely on this process to collect corrections to the public wells and to record the location of private wells. The enclosed maps will be updated with any new information that is received by Eversource Energy, Eastern MA and posted at the above website.

The herbicides are listed in Section VII of the YOP and will be selectively applied to target vegetation by experienced, Massachusetts' licensed/certified applicators that walk along the ROWs using backpack equipment.

The foliage treatments will take place between May 1st and October 18th along with cut surface treatments (CST). Fall CST, basal treatments or sensitive foliar treatments may be necessary and are scheduled between October 1st and December 31st in areas along the ROWs that might not have received a foliage treatment or to trees over 12 feet tall. The exact time is dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

In compliance with 333 CMR 11.06-11.07, No herbicide applications will occur before the conclusion of the 45-day YOP review period, the 21-day treatment notice and the 48-hour newspaper notice. At the end of these review periods, which can run concurrently, no application shall commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the treatment periods listed above.

All the herbicides selected for this program are registered by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Pesticide Board, and are recommended for use in and around sensitive areas jointly by the Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (please refer to the YOP for specifics).



247 Station Drive, SE-370 Westwood, MA 02090

William Hayes
Supervisor

Electric Transmission
Vegetation Management

February 03, 2020

#### 45 Day Yearly Operational Plan Public Notice, Review and Comment Period

Dear Municipal Officials:

In compliance with 333 CMR 11.06, 45 Day Yearly Operational Plan Public Notice, Review and Comment, please review Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's 2020 Yearly Operational Plan for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA.

Posted at the listed websites, Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's *Yearly Operational Plan* (YOP) *for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA* details specific information pertaining to the intended 2020 program:

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

https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/about-us/doing-business-with-us/municipal-officials/transmission-vegetation-management

Please review the enclosed maps that locate the rights-of-way and the location of known *sensitive areas*. If there are any additional *sensitive areas* located on or near the right-of-way, please advise us as soon as possible, so we may establish permanent records and implement appropriate field protective actions. We particularly rely on this process to collect corrections to the public wells and to record the locations of private wells. The enclosed maps will be updated with any new information that is received by Eversource Energy, Eastern MA and posted at the above website. If you would like a hard copy of the YOP please contact us with this request.

Also please review the enclosed copy of the Environmental Monitor Notice, published under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) also located at:

www.env.state.ma.us/mepa/emonitor.aspx

Enclosures:

21 Day Letter

Environmental Monitor Notice 2020 Yearly Operational Plan Maps

Notice Sent to:

Chief Elected Municipal Official

Board of Health

Conservation Commission Municipal Water Supplier Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau

## 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



CHARLES D. BAKER Governor KARYN E. POLITO Lt. Governor MATTHEW A. BEATON Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX Commissioner

#### Notice

Pursuant to the provisions of the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations, 333 CMR 11.00, to apply herbicides to control vegetation along rights-of-way (ROW), a five-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) must be approved by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). Eversource Energy, Eastern MA (Central, Eastern, and Southeastern MA) holds a current VMP, therefore, notice of receipt of a YOP and procedures for public review is hereby given as required by Section 11.06 (3).

Eversource Energy, Eastern Ma has submitted a YOP to DAR in January 2020.

In 2020 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA will conduct an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program on their transmission and distribution lines. The intended vegetation control program will be consistent with Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's VMP (approved by MDAR in 2018). In accordance with the guidelines set forth in Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's VMP for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA and YOP, herbicides will be selectively applied to target vegetation by licensed/certified applicators carrying backpack or hand-held application equipment for the IVM program.

Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's YOP identifies the following 21 municipalities as locations where they intend to use herbicides to treat their electric Rights-of-Way in 2020:

Avon	Fairhaven	Plymouth
Bellingham	Franklin	Randolph
Braintree	Holbrook	Sharon
Canton	Marshfield	Stoughton
Carver	Medway	Walpole
Chelsea	Millis	Wareham
Duxbury	Norfolk	Weymouth

Eversource Energy, Eastern MA will only use herbicides recommended by MDAR for use in regulated sensitive areas for their IVM program. Pursuant to 333 CMR 11.04, no herbicides will be sprayed within any designated "no spray sensitive area" instead mechanical only methods will be used to control vegetation.

Public notification, by certified mail, will be provided to each "affected" municipality at least twenty-one days prior to any herbicide application.

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.06 (2), Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's YOP for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA includes the identification of target vegetation; methods of identifying, marking and protecting regulated sensitive areas; application techniques; the herbicides, application rates, carriers and adjuvants proposed for use; alternative control measures, a list of the application companies and YOP supervisor; procedures for handling, mixing and loading herbicides; emergency resources including local, state

Any questions or comments on the information provided in this *Notice* and the procedures established for the municipal review outlined above should be addressed to:

Clayton Edwards Director of Rights-of-Way Programs Massachusetts State Pesticide Bureau 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500 Boston, MA 02114-2151

Any questions or comments regarding the YOP should be addressed to:

William Hayes, Supervisor Eversource Energy Vegetation Management 247 Station Drive, SE-370 Westwood, MA 02090-9230 781-441-3837 (office)

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS (5p.m.) ON FRIDAY, March 27, 2020

# Eversource Energy Eastern MA 2020 Yearly **Operational Plan FAIRHAVEN** Rights of Way MAE-101



250 500 750 1,000 1,250 1,500

Feet

- 2020 Eversource Energy Electric Rights-of-Way
- **Emergency Surface Water Well**
- Ground Water Well
- Non-Transient, Non-Community Well
- Proposed Well
- Surface Water Well
- Transient, Non-Community Well
- Private Well
- NHESP Certified Vernal Pools

Perennial Rivers and Streams

Intermittent Rivers and Streams

Mass Town Lines

Mass Zone A (identifies surface waterbodies, tributaries and associated waterbodies, follow Sensitive Area treament methods per 333 CMR 11.04)

