



247 Station Drive, SE-370  
Westwood, MA 02090

**William Hayes**  
Supervisor  
Electric Transmission  
Vegetation Management

Certified mail-return receipt requested

January 18, 2019

Dear Municipal Official:

This letter is to inform you that Eversource Energy, Eastern MA intends to selectively apply herbicides in 2019 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 2018 *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 note that the YOP also includes the rights-of-way (ROW) from the 2018 treatment program. This is just in case Eversource Energy, Eastern MA needs to request a "touch-up" retreatment of scattered locations from its contractor(s). For some municipalities, these "touch-up" ROW's are the only ones that are located within your boundaries; please note the difference on pages 3-4 in the YOP.

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 April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup> along with cut surface treatments (CST). Fall CST, basal treatments or sensitive foliar treatments may be necessary and are scheduled between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 of 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).

The work will be performed by one of the following companies:

Vegetation Control Service, Inc.  
2342 Main Street  
Athol, MA 01331  
(978) 249-5348

Lewis Tree Service, Inc  
300 Lucius Gordon Drive  
West Henrietta, NY 14586  
(585) 436-3208

Lucas Tree  
636 Riverside St.  
Portland, ME 04104  
(888) 845-7870

Tree Tech  
6 Springbrook Rd.  
Foxboro, MA 02035  
(888) 873-3832

Stanley Tree Service, Inc.  
662 Great Rd  
North Smithfield, RI 02896-6864  
(866) 765-4783

Rainbow Treecare  
11571 K-Tel Dr.  
Minnetonka, MN 55343  
(952) 922-3810

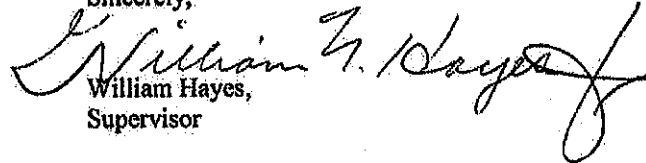
This informational 21-day notification is in compliance with Chapter 132B, section 6B of the Massachusetts General Laws and 333 CMR 11.05-11.07 Rights of Way Management and Chapter 85, Section 10 of the Acts of 2000.

For inquires concerning the safety of the herbicides please contact:

Director of Rights of Way Program  
Department of Food and Agriculture  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114-2151

If there are any questions or comments relative to technical questions about the treatment program, you would like a hard copy of the VMP or YOP, or have any questions about Eversource Energy, Eastern MA and its electrical rights-of-way system please contact William Hayes (781) 441-3932 for transmission lines and Paul Sellers (508) 957-4517 for distribution lines.

Sincerely,

  
William Hayes,  
Supervisor

Enc: Environmental Monitor Notice  
2019 Yearly Operational Plan Maps  
45 Day YOP Public Notice and Review and Comment Period Document

cc: Board of Health  
Board of Selectmen  
Conservation Commission  
Municipal Water Supplier  
Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau



247 Station Drive, SE-370  
Westwood, MA 02090

**William Hayes**  
Supervisor  
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January 18, 2019

## **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 2019 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 2019 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>

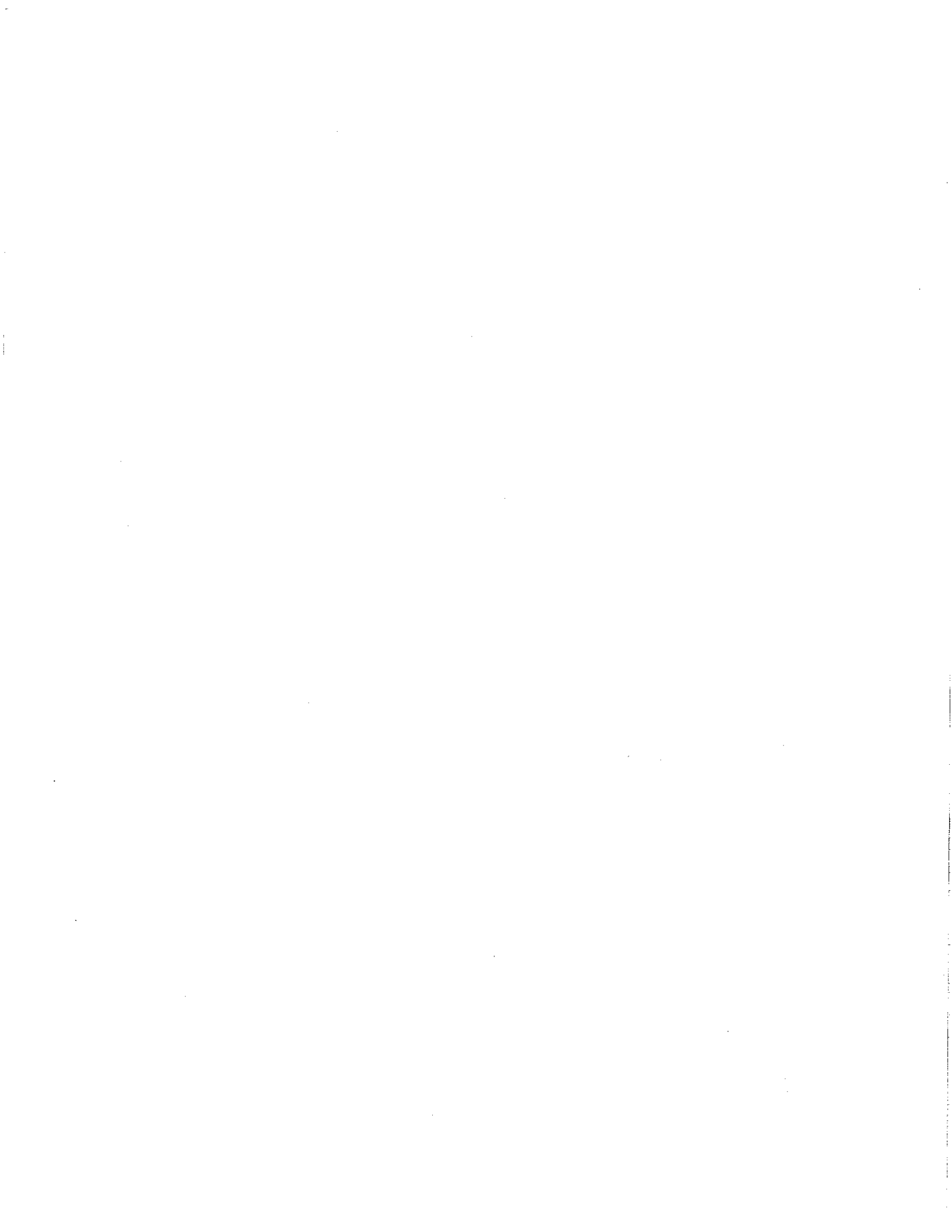
Please review the enclosed maps that locate the rights-of-way and the location of known *sensitive areas*. If there are any additional *sensitive areas* located on or near the right-of-way, please advise us as soon as possible, so we may establish permanent records and implement appropriate field protective 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](http://www.env.state.ma.us/mepa/emonitor.aspx)

Enclosures: 21 Day Letter  
Environmental Monitor Notice  
2019 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 MDAR in December 2018.

In 2019 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 46 municipalities as locations where they intend to use herbicides to treat their electric Rights-of-Way in 2019:

Acushnet	Duxbury	Mendon	Uxbridge
Avon	Fairhaven	Middleborough	Walpole
Bellingham	Franklin	Millis	Waltham
Blackstone	Holbrook	Millville	Wareham
Braintree	Holliston	New Bedford	Wayland
Bridgewater	Hopkinton	Norfolk	Weston
Burlington	Kingston	Plymouth	Westwood
Canton	Marion	Plympton	Weymouth
Carver	Marshfield	Randolph	Wilmington
Chelsea	Mattapoissett	Sharon	Woburn
Dartmouth	Medfield	Stoughton	
Dover	Medway	Sudbury	

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 and federal emergency telephone numbers; maps of the ROWs which included regulated sensitive areas, and herbicide fact sheets and labels.

## PUBLIC REVIEW

MDAR seeks to verify the location of regulated Sensitive Areas defined in Section 11.02 reported in the YOP. MDAR itself has a limited ability to survey the geography, land use and water supplies in all the communities through which ROWs pass. Municipalities have most of this information readily available, and the particular knowledge with which to better certify the regulated Sensitive Areas in their communities. MDAR, therefore, requests, and urges the assistance of the "affected" municipalities in reviewing the completeness and accuracy of the maps contained in the submitted YOP.

The YOP may be viewed online 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>

MDAR has established the following procedures for this review:

Copies of the YOP and this *Notice* will be sent by the applicant to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health (or designated health agent), and the Head of Government (Mayor, City Manager, Chair of the Board of Selectman) of each municipality where herbicides are to be applied during the 2019 calendar year; and if applicable to the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Municipal agencies and officials will have forty-five days, following receipt of the YOP, to review its map for inaccuracies and omissions in the location of "regulated sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field."

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the YOP to the appropriate official(s) in their municipality qualified to certify the accuracy of the regulated sensitive areas indicated on the maps. The maps should then be "corrected" and returned to the applicant and a copy should be sent to MDAR at the address listed below within the forty-five day review period.

If a city or town needs more time to carry out this review, it should send a written request for an extension to MDAR and cite why there is a "good cause" for requesting additional time.

The applicant is required to make all corrections and the corrected maps will be sent back to the city/town that requested the disputed changes within fifteen days of receipt of the request. MDAR will decide whether or not the YOP should be approved without the requested changes. MDAR will consider the "final approval" of a YOP individually for each municipality.

The twenty-one day public review period of the Municipal ROW Notification Letter may serve concurrently with the forty-five day YOP review period in order to provide public notifications as required by 333 CMR 11.07, if the applicant has an approved VMP and if all the requisite city-town offices that received copies of the YOP completed their review and all corrections were duly made by the applicant and approved by MDAR.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicant's submission of the YOP within the forty-five day period will be automatically considered by MDAR to indicate agreement by the municipal officials with the regulated Sensitive Area demarcations provided by the applicant in their YOP.

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 (5pm) ON Friday March 8, 2019**

