



One NSTAR Way
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

May 1, 2013

Dear Municipal Official,

In a letter dated February 15, 2013 you received notification that NSTAR Electric & Gas intends to selectively apply herbicides along power line and natural gas rights-of-way that pass through your municipality. This treatment is conducted as a component of an integrated vegetation management program that also utilizes mechanical and natural control techniques.

In addition, NSTAR plans on conducting a tree growth regulator (TGR) and vine control program where necessary in your municipality.

Information on NSTAR's approved Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) and maps showing the right(s)-of-way to be treated were included with that letter.

NSTAR's Yearly Operational Plan and maps are also posted at the following website:

<http://www.kenersongroup.com/yop/2013/nstar>

NSTAR's five-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for 2013-2017 is posted at the following website:

<http://www.kenersongroup.com/vmp/2013/nstar>

Although you already received and reviewed copies of the YOP map(s) with the original notification please let us know if there are any additional *sensitive areas* located on or near the rights-of-way; please advise us as soon as possible so we can 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 location of private wells.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts recommended herbicides and TGRs for use in *sensitive areas* listed in section VII of the YOP will be selectively applied to target vegetation by experienced, Massachusetts' licensed/certified applicators that walk along the ROWs using backpack equipment. Copies of the manufacturers' labels and fact sheets are also included in the YOP appendices.

The foliage treatments will take place between June 3rd 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 7th and December 31st in areas along the ROWs that might not have received a foliage treatment or to trees over 12 feet tall. The TGR and roadside vine control program will take place between June 3rd and October 4th. The exact time is dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.



One NSTAR Way
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

February 15, 2013

Dear Municipal Official:

This letter is to inform you that NSTAR Electric & Gas intends to selectively apply herbicides along power line and natural gas rights-of-way that pass through your municipality. This treatment is conducted as a component of an integrated vegetation management program that also utilizes mechanical and natural control techniques.

In addition, NSTAR plans on conducting a tree growth regulator and vine control program where necessary in your municipality.

NSTAR's five-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for 2013-2017 is posted at the following website: www.kenersongroup.com/vmp/2013/nstar. If you would like a hard copy please contact us with this request.

NSTAR's Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) for 2013 is posted at the following website: www.kenersongroup.com/yop/2013/nstar. 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 2012 treatment program. This is just in case NSTAR 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 NSTAR and posted at the above website.

The chosen herbicides and tree growth regulators (TGR) 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 June 3rd 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 7th and December 31st in areas along the ROWs that might not have received a foliage treatment or to trees over 12 feet tall. The tree growth regulator and roadside vine control program will take place between June 3rd and October 4th. The exact time is dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

In compliance with 333 CMR 11.06-11.07, No herbicide or TGR 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.



One NSTAR Way
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

February 15, 2013

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 NSTAR Electric and Gas 2013 Yearly Operational Plan.

NSTAR's Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) details specific information pertaining to the intended 2013 program. NSTAR's YOP is posted at the following website:

<http://www.kenersongroup.com/yop/2013/nstar>

Please review the enclosed YOP maps that locate the rights-of-way 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 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 NSTAR 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 hard 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
2013 Yearly Operational Plan Maps
2013 Yearly Operational Plan Tree Growth Regulator & Vine Control Program
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



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR.
Secretary

GREGORY C. WATSON
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 Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR). NSTAR has submitted a VMP, therefore, notice of receipt of a YOP and procedures for public review is hereby given as required by Section 11.06 (3).

The Kenerson Group (TKG) of Athol, Massachusetts submitted a YOP to DAR for NSTAR Electric & Gas in February 2013.

In 2013 NSTAR will conduct an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program on their transmission, distribution, and natural gas lines. The intended vegetation control program will be consistent with NSTAR's VMP (submitted to DAR in 2013). In accordance with the guidelines set forth in NSTAR's VMP 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.

NSTAR's YOP identifies the following 61 municipalities as locations where they intend to use herbicides and tree growth regulators (TGR) to treat their transmission, distribution, and natural gas Rights-of-Way in 2013:

Abington	Carver	Hopkinton	Natick	Sudbury
Acton	Dartmouth	Kingston	New Bedford	Uxbridge
Acushnet	Duxbury	Lexington	Newton	Walpole
Ashland	East Bridgewater	Lincoln	Norfolk	Waltham
Avon	Fairhaven	Marion	Pembroke	Wareham
Bellingham	Framingham	Marshfield	Plymouth	Watertown
Blackstone	Franklin	Mattapoissett	Plympton	Wayland
Braintree	Freetown	Medway	Randolph	Weston
Bridgewater	Halifax	Mendon	Rochester	Weymouth
Brockton	Hanson	Middleborough	Sharon	Whitman
Burlington	Holbrook	Millis	Sherborn	Woburn
Cambridge	Holliston	Millville	Stoughton	Worcester
Canton				

NSTAR will only use herbicides and TGR recommended by DAR for use in Sensitive Areas for their IVM program. Pursuant to 333 CMR 11.04, no herbicides will be sprayed within any designated "no spray sensitive sites" 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.

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:

Michael McClean
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, Senior Transmission Arborist
NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation
Planning Scheduling and Contract Services Department
One NSTAR Way, SE-370
Westwood, MA 02090-9230
781-441-3837 (office)

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2013