



One NSTAR Way
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

February 15, 2012

Dear Municipal Official:

This letter is to inform you that NSTAR Electric & Gas intends to selectively apply herbicides along power line 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.

NSTAR's five-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for 2008-2012 is posted at the following website: www.kenersongroup.com/vmp/2008/nstar. If you would like a hard copy please contact us with this request.

NSTAR's Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) for 2012 is posted at the following website: www.kenersongroup.com/yop/2012/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 2011 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 page 3 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 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 4th and October 19th along with cut surface treatments (CST). Fall CST, basal treatments or sensitive foliar treatments may be necessary and are scheduled between October 8th 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 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 treatments 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

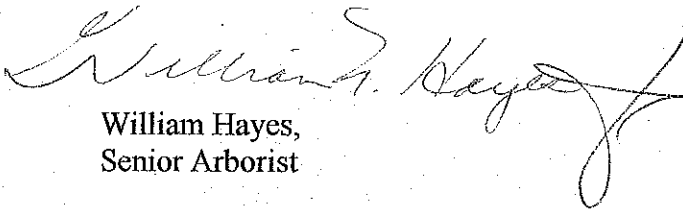
This informational 21-day notification is in compliance with Chapter 132B, section 6B of the Massachusetts General Laws and 333 CMR 11.05-11.07 Rights of Way Management and Chapter 85, Section 10 of the Acts of 2000.

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 NSTAR 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,
Senior Arborist

Enc: Environmental Monitor Notice
2012 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

Certified mail-return receipt requested