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June 18, 2012

Mr. Thomas Klein, Chair
Wayland Board of Health Committee
Wayland Town Hall
41 Cochituate Road
Wayland, MA 01778

Dear Chairman Klein and Committee Members;

I am writing on behalf of the Oak Hill & Meadowview Neighborhood Association with concerns about the possible negative health impact of activities involving the clear cutting of trees by NSTAR in our community. I am a physician in Boston and reside at 38 Oak Hill Road in Wayland. Our neighborhood borders the power lines owned and serviced by NSTAR, who recently plowed through with heavy equipment clear cutting all trees and vegetation beneath the lines. This has left a sizable tract of land essentially exposed to erosion and altered drainage and wash-out. We believe that NSTAR intends to apply herbicide to this exposed land as well.

Our concerns as a neighborhood are twofold as it relates to these activities and a possible local health impact. Firstly, the town well that is adjacent to cleared land may receive altered water drainage containing potentially toxic chemicals from herbicides and the exposed cleared land. For instance, trucks and heavy equipment used in the clearing have been observed to leak oil & fuel from time to time. The property of the Wayland Rod & Gun Club is close by, and has been suspect to contain deposits of lead shot that might contaminate ground water. Secondly, we have concerns that the application of any herbicide will also create new potential health hazards and risks to children and pets in the neighborhood. At this time, we have no details about the type of chemical herbicides that would be used, but we would like to be proactive in determining that proper approvals are obtained and safety precautions are followed, and that the Board of Health is fully aware in advance of our concerns.

I welcome the opportunity to address the Committee in person on Monday, June 25 and appreciate all due consideration to our mutual concerns.

Respectfully,

Paul A. Church, M.D.
38 Oak Hill Road

CC: Ms. Julia Junghanns
Mr. Dan Ouellette, DPW

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2012
TOWN OF WAYLAND
BOARD OF HEALTH



TOWN OF WAYLAND

Board of Health

41 COCHITUATE ROAD
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Board of Selectman

From: The Board of Health

Date: June 25, 2012

Subject: Herbicide treatment by NStar in the Oak Hill Road/Meadowview Road neighborhoods

Several health concerns have been raised by residents in the Oak Hill Road/Meadowview Road neighborhoods. The Board of Health asks that no herbicide treatment be applied by NStar or their subcontractors until the Board of Health has the opportunity to meet with an NStar representative or subcontractor prior to any herbicide applications in the area that has been recently cleared.

Cc: Conservation Commission
Board of Public Works
NStar