



One NSTAR Way  
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

June 12, 2012

Mr. Fred Turkington, Town Administrator  
Town of Wayland  
41 Cochituate Road  
Wayland, MA 01778-2614

Dear Mr. Turkington:

Thank you for your recent email to NSTAR. We understand that tree cutting on rights-of-way is a sensitive issue in many communities including Wayland, which is why we have been working closely with you to provide a better understanding of our policies and obligation to provide safe and reliable electric service to our customers.

Our responses to the numbered issues raised in your email are included in the same order.

1. Attached is a copy of the easement associated with the Oak Hill and Meadow View Roads area of Wayland (together with the referenced plan). This easement was granted to NSTAR Electric Company (formerly known as Boston Edison Company) in 1950, well before most of the residential development in the area. Not only does the easement grant to NSTAR the right to construct its transmission lines, it also contains the following clear and unambiguous language:

***“This conveyance includes also the perpetual right and easement, at any time and from time to time, and without other or further payment than that herein provided, to clear and keep clear said strip [250 feet in width] or any part thereof of trees, underbrush, buildings and other structures .... and to enter upon and to pass along said strip to and from the adjoining lands for all of the above purposes and to pass over the Grantor’s premises to and from said strip as reasonably required”.***

I am also including a copy of NSTAR’s Right-of-Way (ROW) strip map which shows the location of the Oak Hill and Meadow View Roads (which were developed after the grant of the easement) and their relationship to NSTAR’s transmission ROW.

Based on the above, Residents and Town officials should no longer have any doubts that NSTAR has the legal right to undertake the vegetation management work currently underway.

2. NSTAR’s Transmission Vegetation Management Plan has been designed to ensure the reliability of the high voltage electric lines contained within the ROW’s and to enable full utilization of NSTAR’s ROW.
3. NSTAR strongly discourages the location of septic systems within its ROW as a matter of policy. To our knowledge, there is only one authorized septic system on the ROW. An approved septic system must be constructed to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) loading standards. As such, equipment traversing the area should not have an adverse impact on its structural integrity. With regard to the question of whether NSTAR’s work will have any significant adverse impact on water quality, none is anticipated.

4. All plant roots systems will remain intact. New vegetation will emerge shortly after completion of the work. Although no erosion issues are anticipated, they would be addressed with the individual property owners on a case-by-case basis.
5. No herbicide applications are planned for 2012. Any future applications will be in accordance with state and federal requirements and will address sensitive areas.
6. NSTAR's proposed mitigation efforts consist of stump grinding in landscaped areas and incidental low growth plantings. Neither of these activities should have any impact on drinking water supplies.
7. We understand that a Wayland property owner has filed a lawsuit, however at this time NSTAR has not been served with the Complaint and cannot comment further.

NSTAR has detailed the necessity for this critical transmission reliability work and at this time will be proceeding with that work.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Annemarie Walsh  
Community Relations Representative

Attachment