

January 31, 2019

Norfolk Conservation Commission
One Liberty Lane
Norfolk, MA 02056



RE: Eversource Energy Right-of-Way (ROW) Maintenance Activities

Dear Commission Members,

Eversource Energy (Eversource) is providing notice of planned and scheduled vegetation maintenance work on the electric transmission right-of-way(s) (EMA-4 A,E,W) located within your municipality for the 2019 calendar year. The planned maintenance will involve floor cutting, side pruning and the selective removal of hazard trees that are located along or just beyond the right-of-way edge.

- Floor cutting is clearing all incompatible woody vegetation that will be greater than 12 feet tall this growing season to maintained floor/easement ROW width. Woody vegetation is removed around all pole/tower structures, guide wires, gates/barriers and all "off road" access roads. Incompatible woody vegetation is removed 30 feet back from primary road crossings and/or ROW wooden barrier. All woody vegetation shall be mowed or chipped and removed from ROW.
- Pruning and hazard tree removal is required to comply with our vegetation management clearance program requirements for ensuring that vegetation does not contact or encroach within minimum distances of the energized transmission system. Our current cycle requires that this pruning be performed once every ten years. All planned work is reviewed in advance and all tree removals beyond the limits of the ROW easement area are discussed with property owners prior to the performance of the work.

The maintenance work is being conducted under the WPA M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310CMR 10.02(2)(a)(2), which provide for the following exemption:

"activities conducted to maintain, repair or replace, but not substantially change or enlarge an existing and lawfully located structure or facility used in the service of the public and used to provide electric, gas, water, sewer, telephone, telegraph and other communication services, provided said work utilizes the best practical measures to avoid or minimize impacts to wetland resource areas outside the footprint of said structure or facility."

Eversource is sending this notification to inform the Conservation Commission of the work and provide a contact for additional information. Under a separate correspondence and in accordance with 220 CMR 22.00, the Town Administrator was also notified of this maintenance work by Eversource Energy Electric Transmission Vegetation Management.



Environmental
Protection
Measures:

As this work may take place within a buffer zone and/or wetland resource areas, Eversource requires this work to be performed using Eversource's standard best management practices to prevent permanent impact to the environment. These best management practices are listed below.

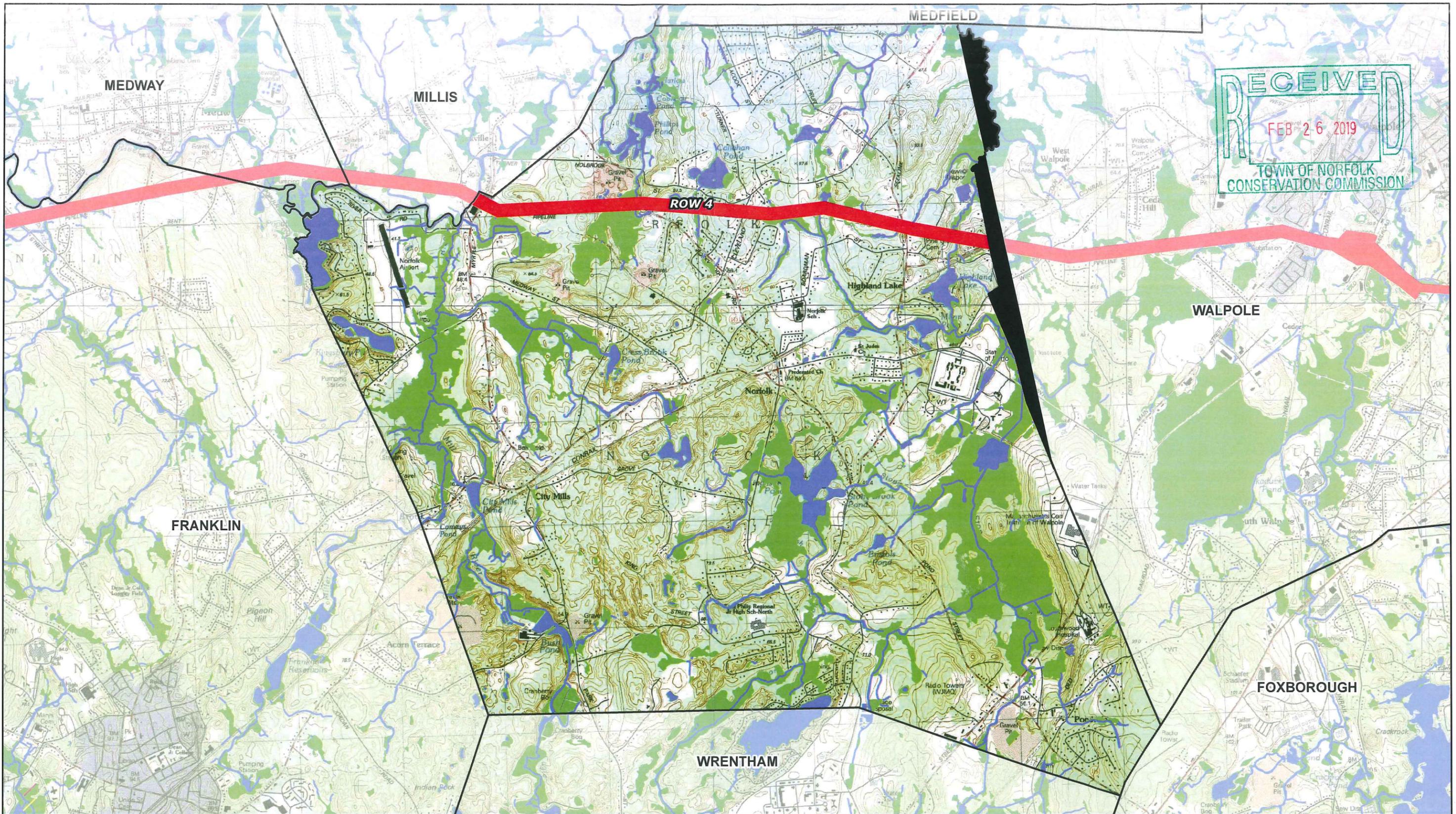
- Vegetation control activities are managed by degreed arborists holding certifications in Massachusetts and the International Society of Arboriculture.
- Vegetation Management activities are performed under a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and Yearly Operating Plan (YOP) submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. In addition, Best Management Practices used during these activities are based on standard requirements received from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA).
- Unless safety concerns dictate otherwise and/or where feasible, the following general practices are used when working in and around wetlands:
 - Vehicle traffic will remain on ROW access roadways as much as possible.
 - Heavy equipment will remain outside of wetlands with visibly saturated areas to minimize rutting.
 - Vegetation management in wetlands with visibly saturated areas will be performed by hand, on swamp matting, or using low pressure equipment.
 - Low growing shrubs, such as winterberry or high bush blueberry will remain in the wetlands. (Note: these species may be trimmed or mowed, but their root system will not be destroyed or grubbed out).
 - Wood and cut branches will be diced and left within the rights-of-way. Diced vegetation will not be left within access areas or within the cleared areas around structures and guy wires. Debris will also be kept out of water courses, stream and river banks, and bodies of water including standing water in wetland areas.
 - No refueling of equipment will take place within 100 feet of wetlands.

If the Commission should have any questions or would like to meet regarding this letter or the scheduled maintenance activities, please call Denise Bartone at 781-441-8174. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DB' with a flourish.

Denise M. Bartone
Supervisor, Licensing & Permitting
Eversource Environmental Affairs



RECEIVED
 FEB 26 2019
 TOWN OF NORFOLK
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

INDEX MAP



Legend

-  Stream & MassDEP Hydrologic Connection
-  Waterbody
-  MassDEP Wetlands
-  Transmission or Distribution ROW
-  Town Boundary

Map Notes:
 Data valid as of February 2019.
 Based on USGS Topographic Map
 Data source: Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.
 ROW data provided by Eversource.
 The information/data provided in this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation or parcel level analysis. The maps should not be used for construction purposes.



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 Miles

EMA-4

2019 Vegetation Management

Norfolk, Massachusetts

EVERSOURCE
 ENERGY

Tighe & Bond
 Engineers | Environmental Specialists

February 4, 2019