EVERSOURCE ENERGY

RECEIVED
FEB 11 2020
TOWN OF NORFOLK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

247 Station Drive, SE-370
Westwood, MA 02090

William Hayes
Supervisor
Electric Transmission
Vegetation Management

Certified mail-return receipt requested

February 03, 2020

Dear Municipal Official:

This letter is to inform you that Eversource Energy, Eastern MA intends to selectively apply herbicides in 2020 along the power line rights-of-way that pass through your municipality. This treatment is conducted as a component of an integrated vegetation management program that uses the appropriate mechanical and/or herbicides treatments to control vegetation in order to encourage the growth of healthy early successional ecological communities that benefit wildlife while allowing for the safe delivery of electricity to our customers.

Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's 2018-2022 *Five-year Vegetation Management Plan* (VMP) *for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA* is posted at the following websites:

http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html

https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/about-us/doing-business-with-us/municipal-officials/transmission-vegetation-management

If you would like a hard copy, please contact us with this request.

Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's *2020 Yearly Operational Plan* (YOP) for *Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA* is also posted at the above websites. If you would like a hard copy, please contact us with this request.

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 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA and posted at the above website.

The 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 May 1st 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 1st 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 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 work 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
Tree Tech 6 Springbrook Rd. Foxboro, MA 02035 (888) 873-3832	Stanley Tree Service, Inc. 662 Great Rd North Smithfield, RI 02896-6864 (866) 765-4783	Rainbow Treecare 11571 K-Tel Dr. Minnetonka, MN 55343 (952) 922-3810

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 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA 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 H. Hayes Jr

William Hayes,
Supervisor

Enc: Environmental Monitor Notice
2020 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

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

247 Station Drive, SE-370
Westwood, MA 02090

William Hayes
Supervisor
Electric Transmission
Vegetation Management

February 03, 2020

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 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's 2020 Yearly Operational Plan for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA.

Posted at the listed websites, Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's *Yearly Operational Plan* (YOP) *for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA* details specific information pertaining to the intended 2020 program:

http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html

https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/about-us/doing-business-with-us/municipal-officials/transmission-vegetation-management

Please review the enclosed maps that locate the rights-of-way and the location of known *sensitive areas*. 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 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA 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 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
2020 Yearly Operational Plan 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

MDAR
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
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 Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). Eversource Energy, Eastern MA (Central, Eastern, and Southeastern MA) holds a current VMP, therefore, notice of receipt of a YOP and procedures for public review is hereby given as required by Section 11.06 (3).

Eversource Energy, Eastern Ma has submitted a YOP to DAR in January 2020.

In 2020 Eversource Energy, Eastern MA will conduct an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program on their transmission and distribution lines. The intended vegetation control program will be consistent with Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's VMP (approved by MDAR in 2018). In accordance with the guidelines set forth in Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's VMP for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA 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.

Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's YOP identifies the following 21 municipalities as locations where they intend to use herbicides to treat their electric Rights-of-Way in 2020:

Avon	Fairhaven	Plymouth
Bellingham	Franklin	Randolph
Braintree	Holbrook	Sharon
Canton	Marshfield	Stoughton
Carver	Medway	Walpole
Chelsea	Millis	Wareham
Duxbury	Norfolk	Weymouth

Eversource Energy, Eastern MA will only use herbicides recommended by MDAR for use in regulated sensitive areas for their IVM program. Pursuant to 333 CMR 11.04, no herbicides will be sprayed within any designated "no spray sensitive area" 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.

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.06 (2), Eversource Energy, Eastern MA's YOP for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern, MA includes the identification of target vegetation; methods of identifying, marking and protecting regulated sensitive areas; application techniques; the herbicides, application rates, carriers and adjuvants proposed for use; alternative control measures, a list of the application companies and YOP supervisor; procedures for handling, mixing and loading herbicides; emergency resources including local, state

and federal emergency telephone numbers; maps of the ROWs which included regulated sensitive areas, and herbicide fact sheets and labels.

PUBLIC REVIEW

MDAR seeks to verify the location of regulated Sensitive Areas defined in Section 11.02 reported in the YOP. MDAR itself has a limited ability to survey the geography, land use and water supplies in all the communities through which ROWs pass. Municipalities have most of this information readily available, and the knowledge with which to better certify the regulated Sensitive Areas in their communities. MDAR, therefore, requests, and urges the assistance of the "affected" municipalities in reviewing the completeness and accuracy of the maps contained in the submitted YOP.

The YOP may be viewed online at the following websites:

http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html

https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/about-us/doing-business-with-us/municipal-officials/transmission-vegetation-management

MDAR has established the following procedures for this review:

Copies of the YOP and this *Notice* will be sent by the applicant to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health (or designated health agent), and the Head of Government (Mayor, City Manager, Chair of the Board of Selectman) of each municipality where herbicides are to be applied during the 2020 calendar year; and if applicable to the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Municipal agencies and officials will have forty-five days, following receipt of the YOP, to review its map for inaccuracies and omissions in the location of "regulated sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field."

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the YOP to the appropriate official(s) in their municipality qualified to certify the accuracy of the regulated sensitive areas indicated on the maps. The maps should then be "corrected" and returned to the applicant and a copy should be sent to MDAR at the address listed below within the forty-five-day review period.

If a city or town needs more time to carry out this review, it should send a written request for an extension to MDAR and cite why there is a "good cause" for requesting additional time.

The applicant is required to make all corrections and the corrected maps will be sent back to the city/town that requested the disputed changes within fifteen days of receipt of the request. MDAR will decide whether the YOP should be approved without the requested changes. MDAR will consider the "final approval" of a YOP individually for each municipality.

The twenty-one day public review period of the Municipal ROW Notification Letter may serve concurrently with the forty-five day YOP review period in order to provide public notifications as required by 333 CMR 11.07, if the applicant has an approved VMP and if all the requisite city-town offices that received copies of the YOP completed their review and all corrections were duly made by the applicant and approved by DAR.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicant's submission of the YOP within the forty-five-day period will be automatically considered by DAR to indicate agreement by the municipal officials with the regulated Sensitive Area demarcations provided by the applicant in their YOP.

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:

Clayton Edwards
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, Supervisor
Eversource Energy
Vegetation Management
247 Station Drive, SE-370
Westwood, MA 02090-9230
781-441-3837 (office)

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS (5p.m.) ON FRIDAY, March 27, 2020

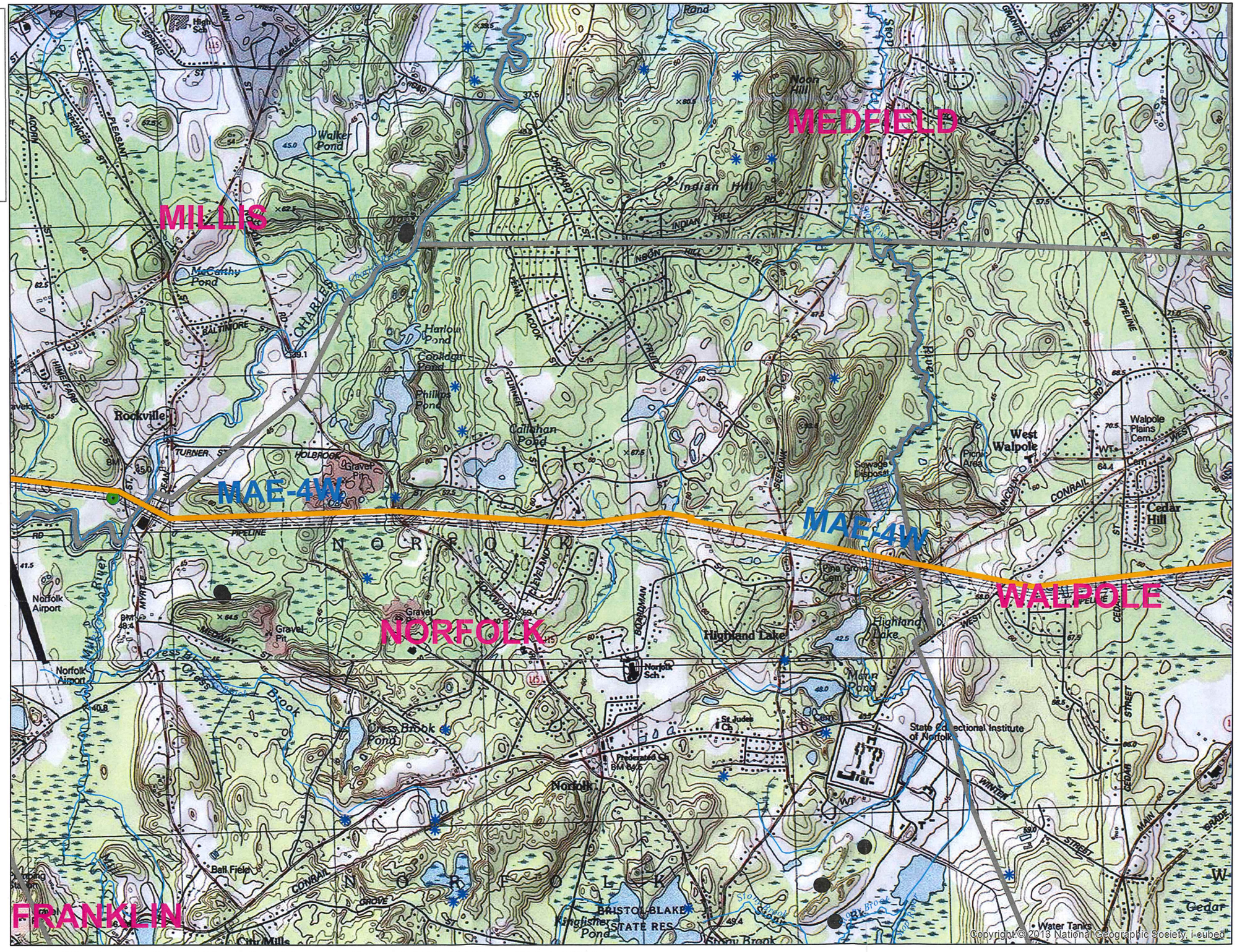
Eversource Energy
Eastern MA
2020 Yearly
Operational Plan
NORFOLK
Rights of Way MAE-4W

N
W E
S

1:24,000

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000
Feet

- 2020 Eversource Energy Electric Rights-of-Way
- Emergency Surface Water Well
- Ground Water Well
- Non-Transient, Non-Community Well
- Proposed Well
- Surface Water Well
- Transient, Non-Community Well
- Private Well
- NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
- Perennial Rivers and Streams
- Intermittent Rivers and Streams
- Mass Town Lines
- Mass Zone A (identifies surface waterbodies, tributaries and associated waterbodies, follow Sensitive Area treament methods per 333 CMR 11.04)



Source: "Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (Mass GIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs".
Public Water Supply data provided by MA DEP Drinking Water Program, October 2019 DEP Public Water Supplies

January 25, 2020