



One NSTAR Way
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

December 23, 2014

**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 NSTAR Electric and Gas 2015 Yearly Operational Plan.

NSTAR's Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) details specific information pertaining to the intended 2015 program. NSTAR's YOP is posted at the following website:

<http://www.kenersongroup.com/yop/2015/nstar>

Please review the enclosed YOP maps that locate the rights-of-way 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 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 NSTAR 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 hard 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
2015 Yearly Operational Plan Maps

Notice Sent to: Chief Elected Municipal Official
Board of Health
Conservation Commission
Municipal Water Supplier
Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau



One NSTAR Way
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

December 23, 2014

Dear Municipal Official:

This letter is to inform you that NSTAR Electric & Gas intends to selectively apply herbicides along power line and natural gas 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 2013-2017 is posted at the following website: www.kenersongroup.com/vmp/2013/nstar. If you would like a hard copy please contact us with this request.

NSTAR's Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) for 2014 is posted at the following website: www.kenersongroup.com/yop/2015/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 2014 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 pages 3 & 4 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 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 1st and October 16th along with cut surface treatments (CST). Fall CST, basal treatments or sensitive foliar treatments may be necessary and are scheduled between October 5th 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.

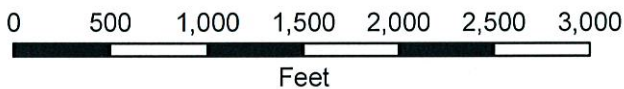
In compliance with 333 CMR 11.06-11.07, No herbicide applications will occur before the conclusion of the 45 day YOP review period, the 21 day treatment notice and the 48 hour newspaper notice. At the end of these review periods, which can run concurrently, no application shall commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the treatment periods listed above.

NSTAR 2015 Yearly Operational Plan NEW BEDFORD

Rights of Way 143 &
NB Bus Prk



1:12,000



- 2015 NSTAR Electric Rights-of-Way
- 2014 NSTAR Touchup 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

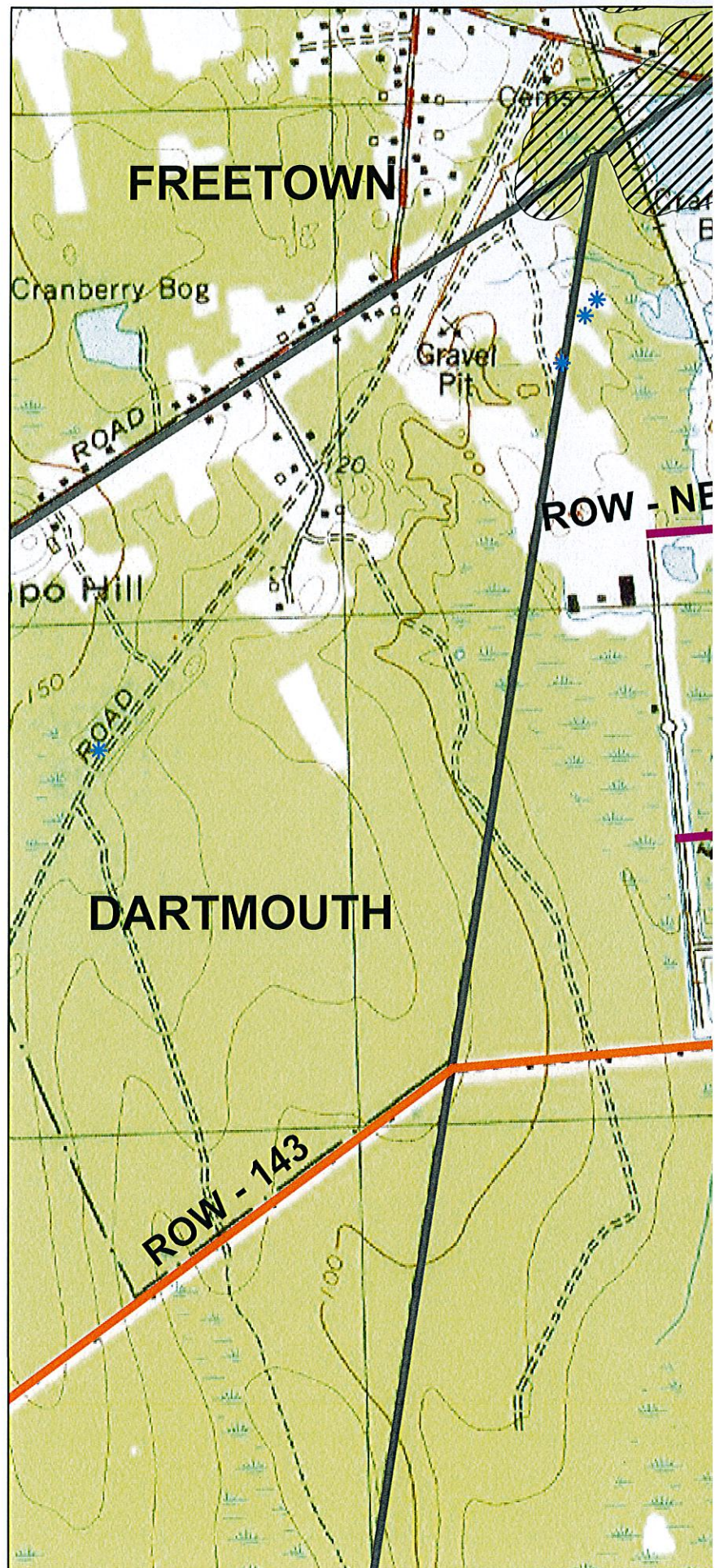
* NHESP Certified Vernal Pools

— Perennial Rivers and Streams

- - - Intermittent Rivers and Streams

Mass Town Lines

Mass Zone A (identifies surface waterbodies, tributaries and associated waterbodies, follow Sensitive Area treatment methods per 333 CMR 11.04)



Source: "Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (Mass GIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office
Public Water Supply data provided by MA DEP Drinking Water Program, July 2014, DEP Public Water Supplies

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



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

MAEVE VALLELY BARTLETT
Secretary

GREGORY C. WATSON
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 Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR). NSTAR has submitted and 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).

The Kenerson Group (TKG) of Athol, Massachusetts submitted a YOP to DAR for NSTAR, A Northeast Utilities Company in December 2014.

In 2015 NSTAR will conduct an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program on their transmission and distribution lines. The intended vegetation control program will be consistent with NSTAR's VMP (approved by DAR in 2013). In accordance with the guidelines set forth in NSTAR's VMP 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.

NSTAR's YOP identifies the following 50 municipalities as locations where they intend to use herbicides to treat their electric Rights-of-Way in 2015:

Acushnet	Carver	Marion	Needham	Uxbridge
Ashland	Dartmouth	Marshfield	New Bedford	Walpole
Avon	Dedham	Mattapoisett	Norfolk	Waltham
Bellingham	Dover	Medfield	Plymouth	Wareham
Blackstone	Duxbury	Medway	Plympton	Wayland
Boston	Fairhaven	Mendon	Randolph	Weston
Braintree	Framingham	Middleborough	Sharon	Westwood
Bridgewater	Franklin	Millis	Sherborn	Weymouth
Burlington	Holbrook	Millville	Stoughton	Wilmington
Canton	Kingston	Natick	Sudbury	Woburn



NSTAR will only use herbicides recommended by DAR for use in Sensitive Areas for their IVM program. Pursuant to 333 CMR 11.04, no herbicides will be sprayed within any designated "no spray sensitive sites" 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), NSTAR's YOP includes the identification of target vegetation; methods of identifying, marking and protecting 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,

William Hayes, Senior Transmission Arborist
NSTAR, A Northeast Utilities Company
Vegetation Managment
One NSTAR Way, SE-370
Westwood, MA 02090-9230
781-441-3837 (office)

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON FRIDAY, February 6, 2015