Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of-Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following municipalities are advised that Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in these municipalities:

- Acton
- Adams
- Agawam
- Andover
- Arlington
- Ashland
- Auburn
- Hansom AF Base
- Bedford
- Bellingham
- Billerica
- Blackstone
- Bolton
- Brimfield
- Brookfield
- Burlington
- Carlisle
- Charlton
- Chelmsford
- Cheshire
- Clinton
- Concord
- Danvers
- Devens
- Douglas
- Dracut

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct regional hearings to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, public hearings will be held via ZOOM:

- Thursday, April 7, 2022
- 11:00am
- Meeting ID: 860 3356 9600
- Passcode: 191061
- https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86033569600?pwd=SEhzN1ZSTUZMZWxiZk1Yc1FMOVRRZz09

Plans Available for Public Review Prior to Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the Row Management Regulations provide: “At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request.” Such request should be made to:

Wendy L. Priestley, Ph.D.
Co-CEO, Vegetation Management Consultant
Vegetation Control Service, Inc.
2342 Main Street Athol, Massachusetts 01331

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Rights-of-Way Program website www.mass.gov/agr. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

- Wilmington Memorial Library, 175 Middlessex Ave, Wilmington
- Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St., Spencer
- Stockbridge Library, Main St., Stockbridge

Written Comments Requested:

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company VMP until the close of business (5pm) Friday, April 8, 2022.

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of-Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114