



Cape Alliance for Pesticide Education

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A local resource for information about toxic chemical pesticides and alternatives to their use

June 16, 2009

Conservation Commission
Board of Health
Board of Selectmen
Town of Eastham, MA

Dear Commissioners and Board Members:

I am deeply concerned about NSTAR's plans to return to the use of hazardous herbicides to control weeds on their easements throughout the Cape –and now in Eastham- after years of controlling plant growth by simple cutting of vegetation. Why risk exposure to toxic chemicals and contamination of our water supply and air when a safe alternative exists? Herbicides are not regulated to be “safe” and are intentionally toxic by design.

One of my numerous concerns about the chemicals NSTAR plans to spray regards the ease with which they can migrate in to the water table and wetlands. Studies of the health effects of most of the herbicides being considered-including their mutagenic or carcinogenic potential, as well as their reproductive and neurological impacts-are notably absent or inconclusive. Herbicides are not screened for their impacts on the endocrine system yet but many herbicides disrupt that critical body system.

It is reckless to permit this unhealthy polluting practice atop our vulnerable aquifer when the safer alternative of selective cutting exists. Right-of-Way spraying for railroad beds and highways are no longer conducted on the Cape because of the sensitivity of the environment. Utility easement spraying must be terminated as well. Please deny the NSTAR request to use herbicides in Eastham.

Sincerely,

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