



CAPE COD FOR A TRULY GREEN NSTAR

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In 2011, as part of its five-year Vegetation Management Plan, the electrical utility **NSTAR plans to use five herbicides** under 150 miles of power lines across Cape Cod. **For decades, NSTAR used only non-chemical methods for controlling vegetation along power lines** – using mechanical cutting and mowing exclusively.

NSTAR'S PESTICIDE PLAN THREATENS OUR HEALTH AND OUR DRINKING WATER

Cape Cod for a Truly Green NSTAR opposes pesticide use along power lines and is asking NSTAR to commit to a no-spray, herbicide-free policy on Cape Cod and Islands rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- In general, **herbicides are harmful to living organisms**. Herbicides, like all pesticides, are designed to kill, and they can harm more than just the intended target. NSTAR plans to use glyphosate (Accord), imazapyr (Arsenal), metsulfuron methyl (Escort), triclopyr (Garlon 4), and fosamine ammonium (Krenite). There is evidence that the herbicides and breakdown products are associated with the following potential adverse health effects: cancer, tumors, nerve damage, attention deficit disorders, miscarriages, embryo defects, and disruption of hormonal systems. No data exists on the synergistic health or other impacts of this herbicide mixture.
- The herbicides NSTAR proposes for use on Cape Cod can **migrate off rights-of-way, seeping into groundwater and surface water** and exposing humans and aquatic organisms to toxic chemicals. **Cape Cod is an EPA-designated sole source aquifer**, meaning the aquifer is the only source of drinking water for Cape Cod and “if contaminated, would create a significant hazard to public health.” Sandy soils across the Cape leave groundwater particularly vulnerable to contamination. Herbicides can leach through soil or groundwater and also drift in the wind.
- These rights of way are on or adjacent to properties that contain homes, public parks, conservation lands, businesses, ponds, wetlands, the Cape Cod Rail Trail, and drinking water supplies. **The potential for direct exposure of people and wildlife** to these pesticides is a concern. Rain and wind can easily move these pesticides into these resources.

THERE ARE SAFE, EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES - NSTAR HAS USED THEM FOR DECADES

We are simply asking NSTAR to return to those safer, non-chemical methods of vegetation control that they used successfully for years. The use of herbicides to control vegetative growth along power lines on Cape Cod is an unnecessary risk for public health and the environment. **We request that NSTAR abandon its plan to use herbicides along rights-of-way on Cape Cod and the Islands and commit to a no-spray, pesticide-free policy to control ROW vegetation.**

ASK NSTAR CEO TOM MAY TO COMMIT TO A NO HERBICIDE POLICY ON CAPE COD

YOU CAN HELP! Call the NSTAR CEO, Tom May, (617-424-2527) and ask him to halt NSTAR's pesticide spraying plans on Cape Cod and the Islands and commit to controlling vegetation mechanically e.g. cutting and mowing. If you are unable to speak to someone or leave a message at that number, call 781-441-8338.

For more information, visit www.GreenCAPE.org.