



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston, MA 02133-1054

May 8, 2013

Craig Hallstrom, President
NSTAR
800 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02199

RE: TOWN OF DUXBURY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Hallstrom,

We write to express our grave concern with NSTAR plans for “vegetation management” in the town of Duxbury.

For decades NSTAR, the town of Duxbury and its residents and abutting homeowners have worked in a cooperative and mutually beneficial manner. Based on the communications from your company and representations of arborists it appears NSTAR now intends to effectively clear-cut nearly the entire vegetated area in the transmission line right of way. This would represent an unprecedented step and sharp departure from past practice.

We hope this letter will be an important step in ensuring appropriate and beneficial communication between NSTAR and the families that own property along NSTAR’s right of way in Duxbury.

We understand that the greater good requires that NSTAR keep the transmission lines free of trees and vegetation. This ensures the operational integrity of the lines and ensures that the power grid is reliable. We also respect the desire to accomplish this in a cost efficient manner. At the same time, we know that NSTAR recognizes the importance of minimizing the disruption to the homes and property of residents. Our goal is not to stand in the way of maintaining the right of way, but rather to partner with NSTAR in meeting these goals to ensure that a balanced and well thought out approach is used.

Accordingly, we request the following steps:

- (1) That NSTAR give actual notice to every property owner as to the type of work planned on or adjacent to his or her specific property, as well as the date that the work will take place.
- (2) That NSTAR conduct a formal survey of every parcel upon which tree removal is proposed in order to assure that NSTAR does not remove any vegetation that lies outside of its easement.

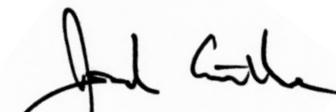
There should be absolutely no cutting on any property until the surveyor formally demarcates where the right of way begins and ends.

- (3) That NSTAR propose specific trees for removal, rather than simply putting up tape around areas to clear cut of all vegetation.
- (4) That NSTAR consider removing only those trees that are currently tall enough to threaten the transmission lines this year. This way, residents will have more time to plan for alternative vegetation as trees grow to heights that threaten the lines.
- (5) NSTAR keep the town Tree Warden informed of all proposed work and its progress. NSTAR should not interfere with the Tree Warden's monitoring of all work along the right of way.
- (6) That NSTAR remove no more trees than are reasonably required to maintain the integrity of the transmission lines and to protect them from falling or other tree contact. The work should not cause any more harm or inconvenience than is absolutely necessary.
- (7) That NSTAR bear the cost of cleaning up the vegetation that is cut. Neither the Town nor residents should bear the cost of removing downed trees or shrubs that NSTAR or its subcontractor leaves behind.
- (8) That NSTAR not carry out any cutting until the Town receives a written statement of the impact its proposed work will have on local endangered and threatened species.
- (9) That NSTAR provide written communication to the town and to affected homeowners how the tree cutting will impact the following:
 - a. local well water
 - b. erosion on private property
 - c. septic systems in and near the proposed clearing zone

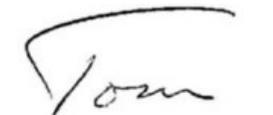
Duxbury has a strong tradition of conservation and we pride ourselves in the natural beauty that surrounds us. The current proposal could cause irreparable harm to our residents, the town, and the natural environment. In light of this, we strongly believe that all of our concerns should be heard and addressed prior to any cutting taking place. We are not only concerned with the damage to the property of our residents, but also to the environment and aesthetic nature of our town.

We appreciate your written response to the concerns raised herein before any part of the vegetation management plan is carried out in the Town of Duxbury. We also appreciate continued communication throughout the process.

Sincerely,



JOSH S. CUTLER
State Representative



THOMAS CALTER
State Representative



ROBERT L. HEDLUND
State Senator