



One NSTAR Way
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

September 3, 2009

Wellfleet
Town Administrator Paul Sieloff
300 Main Street
Wellfleet, MA 02667

Dear Mr. Sieloff,

This letter is in response to our meeting held at the Wellfleet Town Hall on September 1, 2009 regarding the issue of NSTAR's maintenance practices on the right-of-way in Wellfleet. I would like to thank you for providing an opportunity for NSTAR, Wellfleet residents, and the Town of Wellfleet public officials to discuss options pertaining to the maintenance of our rights-of-way.

It's important to re-emphasize that NSTAR's vegetation maintenance program is a thoughtful, well-run program that not only follows all state and federal regulations, but also balances the needs of our neighbors with our responsibility to provide reliable electric service. It has been thoroughly reviewed and approved by all applicable state agencies and we ensured that proper notice of our plans was provided to all interested parties. The vegetation maintenance program is also endorsed by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, under the direction of Mass. Fish and Wildlife, for proper environmental right-of-way stewardship and has numerous environmental benefits as discussed during the informational meeting held in Eastham on August 12, 2009.

We do understand the concern of the town regarding the methods used by NSTAR, and Wellfleet's expanded concern of the herbicide and pesticide products used commercially and by residents within your community. It's important to note that, unlike many other applicators in Wellfleet, we are highly visible and our program is regulated by the state. We also use only trained and licensed contractors during the application of herbicide on the rights-of-way. Our own staff consists of licensed arborists overseeing and monitoring the work performed. Again, I want to point out that NSTAR has provided the proper documentation, obtained approval and support from the applicable state agencies, and has been forthright with information and communication with our neighbors in Wellfleet. Finally, the Company's use of herbicides in the maintenance of our rights-of-way is specifically included in the easement agreements with property owners.

During the September 1, 2009 meeting with Wellfleet officials it was made clear that the town intends to explore a town-wide ban on the use of herbicide and pesticide products. In a good faith effort, NSTAR will postpone our application of herbicide along our rights-of-way in Wellfleet until June 2010, to allow Wellfleet sufficient time to explore its options. Please understand that we maintain our rights, through easements and state agencies, to continue our application of herbicide as outlined in our Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) starting in June 2010, unless a suitable alternative plan is developed.

We appreciate your time and understanding of NSTAR's responsibility to provide safe, reliable electric service to our customers. I look forward to our continued cooperative efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Polson".

David Polson
Manager – Vegetation Management