



Martha's Vineyard Commission

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William Hayes, Senior Transmission Arborist
Eversource Energy, Eastern MA
Transmission Vegetation Management
247 Station Drive, SE-370
Westwood, MA 02090-9230

Dear Mr. Hayes,

This letter is to address concerns about the proposed herbicide spraying scheduled to take place in Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and Tisbury this year. We understand that the only herbicides to be used have been approved by the State for Sensitive Areas; but we strongly request that you consider their use on Martha's Vineyard. The Island is a small, contained ecosystem that is easily stressed, and the Island's only source of drinking water is obtained through a sole source aquifer. The use of any herbicides, including those approved by the State for Sensitive Areas, might be detrimental to the health of the Island's vibrant, natural environment, and would have extremely harmful consequences if they were to seep into the aquifer.

There are many delicate and protected environments on the Island. Some of the proposed spraying is adjacent to the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest, which has the highest concentration of rare species in the entire state of Massachusetts. We are concerned about the long-term effects herbicides will have on this sensitive and unique area.

There are many questions surrounding this proposed use of herbicides on Martha's Vineyard. The MVC is concerned about these practices and would like them to be more fully presented and discussed. We would like to invite you to meet with us to find resolution to these matters, and to explore alternatives.

Sincerely,

Adam Turner
Executive Director