

RECEIVED
TOWN OF NEEDHAM
SELECT BOARD

2020 DEC 31 P 2:05

December 22, 2020

Dear Neighbor,

Safety First and Always

The safety of our employees, our customers and the public is our top priority during the ongoing coronavirus public health crisis. Our commitment to safety, first and always, is continuous.

Providing Reliable Service to Customers

At the same time, Eversource must fulfill its critical mission to deliver safe, reliable service to our customers, in support of the economic health of New England and the basic needs of society. This commitment has taken on even more importance during these unsettled times. We continue to call on our employees and contractors to perform essential work in the field that maintains and improves the reliability of our networks and serves customers' best interests, while also adapting our work practices to incorporate social distancing, proper protective equipment, heightened hygiene, and other best practices to protect their, and the public's, health and avoid the spread of coronavirus.

Safely Performing Our Work

Essential work is activity that maintains or improves the condition of our system and supports our delivery of safe and reliable energy and other services, including vegetation maintenance activities within the transmission power line corridor (right-of-way) on or near your property.

During this time, Eversource will follow social distancing and other health and safety guidelines in our community outreach efforts. In addition to relying on alternate communications channels to keep customers safe and informed (letters, emails and phone calls), we will use of door hangers as a part of our outreach efforts. Eversource representatives will leave these notifications that include information on our work in rights-of-way and who to contact with any questions — without knocking on doors. Eversource representatives will continue to abide by all COVID-19 safety guidelines, which include wearing personal protective equipment, following social distancing, enhanced sanitizing requirements and other federal and state health and safety guidelines.

Why Tree Work is Important

- To protect the electric system, we remove tall-growing species from the right-of-way and cut branches extending into the right-of-way. These trees and branches pose a serious safety hazard, now or in the future, if they contact energized equipment.
- Vegetation contact with electric facilities may lead to power outages that could impact thousands of electric customers. The clearing of trees and branches in and along the right-of-way will improve system performance, especially during severe weather events.

Work in Your Neighborhood

The vegetation management work may include:

- Clearing of incompatible trees and/or removal of branches that are encroaching into the right-of-way.
- Removing tall-growing tree species that are incompatible to the transmission system, using manual climbing crew or mechanical tree-harvesting equipment, and tree-chipping machinery.
- Removal of vegetation within the cleared areas of the right-of-way, through cutting, mowing, and/or application of approved herbicides.

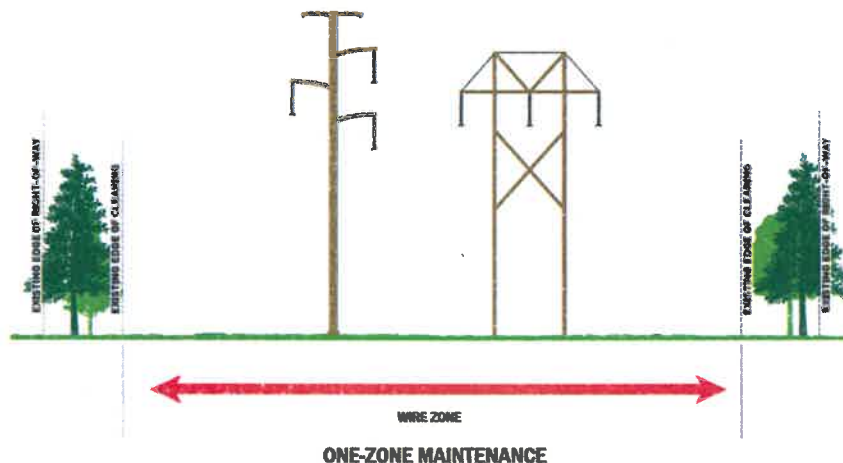
What You Can Expect

We want you to know that this work will not interrupt electric service to your property, and people working in the area carry identification. Work hours will typically be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Due to weather or other unexpected circumstances, from time to time crews may need to work longer hours or on a Sunday.

In certain areas, this vegetation management scope may be more than what has been experienced in the past.

Based on the width of the right-of-way, the type and number of transmission lines, the location of the lines within the right-of-way and the topography, Eversource employs a "one-zone" vegetation maintenance method. This method establishes the following:

- One-zone maintenance occurs within a right-of-way wire zone, which is the area directly under the transmission lines, extending to the edge of the easement or the width of the maintained area. In this zone, only established compatible species with a height of 15 feet or less at maturity may be allowed to remain in the wire zone, depending on location. All other plants with a mature height greater than 15 feet will be removed.



The diagram illustrates a typical right-of-way condition. This work is occurring within the existing edge of clearing. Your neighborhood may have a different configuration of transmission structures.

Work Performance

Eversource is using approved contractors to conduct this work. The work may be completed in several stages, or at various times during the year. Work may also be performed by different contractors depending on the scope of work required in the particular right-of-way. Trimming and tree removal is performed throughout the year. Herbicide application may be used to treat cut tree stumps or stems throughout the year, and selective leaf treatment can be performed when leaves are present.

Keeping the Wood from Cleared Areas

If you would like to keep the wood from trees cut on your property, please call 888-673-9943. The wood that is to be kept for your personal use will be placed along the edge of the maintained area within the right-of-way and outside of the wire zone and environmentally sensitive areas. Wood and cut branches not left for personal use will be chipped and removed, slashed, or diced and left within the right-of-way. Diced vegetation will not be left on manicured lawns, right-of-way access areas or within the cleared areas around structures and guy wires. Debris will also be kept out of water courses, stream and river banks, and bodies of water including standing water in wetland areas.

Additional Communication

Along with this letter, you will be receiving a door hanger or email informing you of the scheduled work. **If you prefer e-mail, please contact us with your electronic address.** The letter and door hanger are part of our requirements under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulation (220 CMR 22.00), providing notice of vegetation work in the transmission right-of-way.

Always Working to Serve You Better

Keeping the lines of communication open is an important part of our work in your community. Please contact us if **you have a private water well within 100' of the electric transmission right-of-way** or with any questions you might have. We can be reached at **888-673-9943 or MAVegMaintenance@eversource.com.**

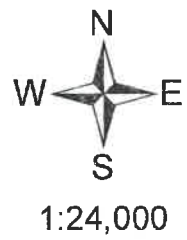
Thank you for your patience and cooperation while Eversource performs this important system reliability work.

Sincerely,

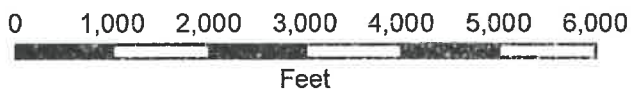
Michael Babineau













Michael Babineau - Transmission Arborist, Vegetation Management

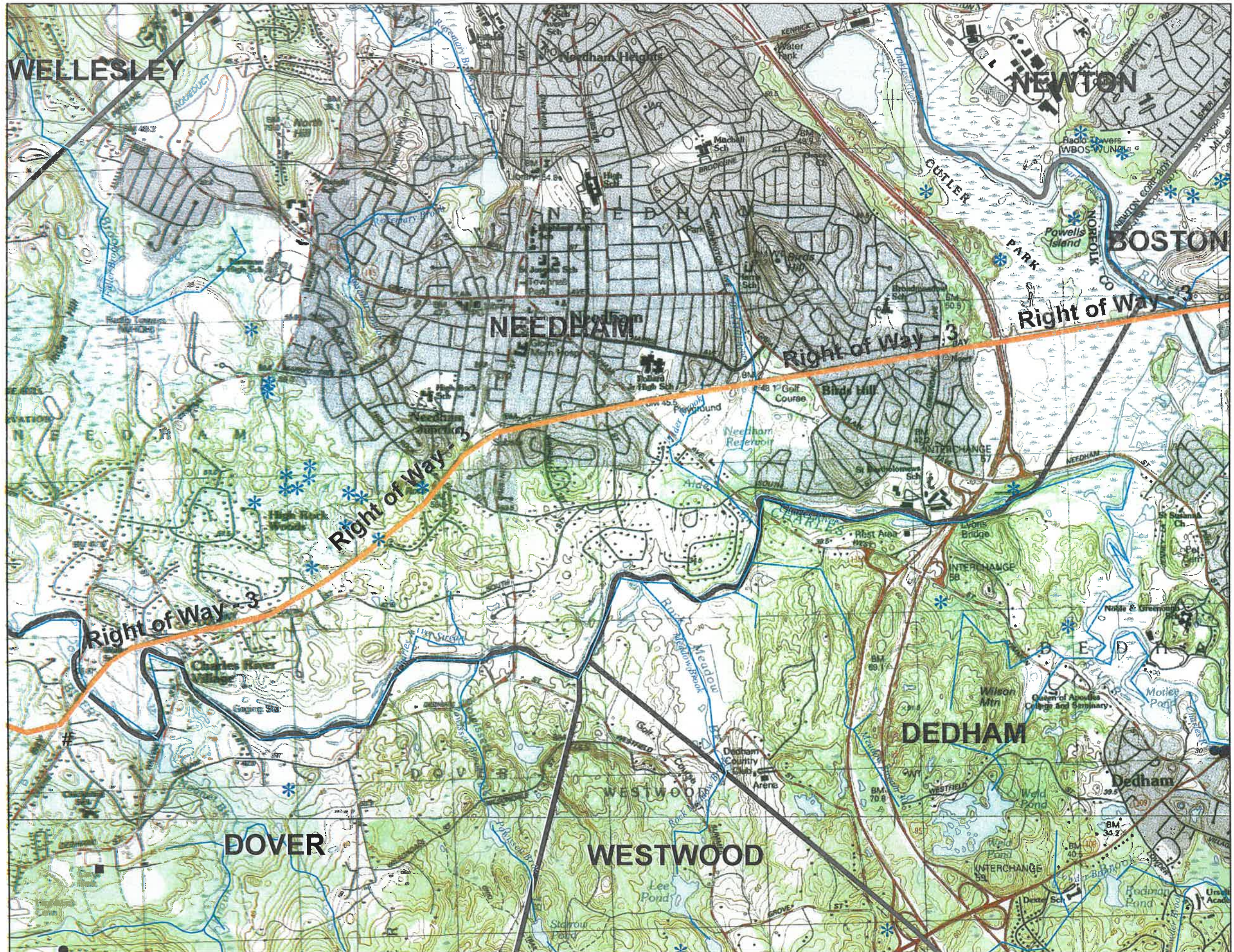
Eversource Energy Transmission Vegetation Management NEEDHAM Right of Way 3



1:24,000



-  Eversource Right-of-Way
-  Emergency Surface Water Well
-  Ground Water Well
-  Non-Transeint, Non-Community Well
-  Proposed Well
-  Surface Water Well
-  Transient, Non-Community Well
-  NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
-  Perennial Rivers and Streams
-  Intermittent Rivers and Streams
-  Mass Zone A
-  Mass Town Lines



Source: "Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (Mass GIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs".
Public Water Supply data provided by MADEP Drinking Water Program, October 2017, DEP Public Water Supplies