

“The Spray Does Not Drift”

NSTAR, MDAR, Harwich Selectmen and audience at December 8th Selectmen's meeting. Common Sense was not in attendance. More questions than answers. MDAR's Lee Corte-Real says regulations are not enforceable. NSTAR's Bill Hayes says he would not close his windows if crews were spraying near his house because the pesticide does not drift so he does not need advance notification. Selectwoman Linda Cebula tells Bill Hayes that she would close her windows if sprayers were in the area. Sea Horse Farm owner Clare Bergh was definitely sprayed with pesticide chemicals, not diesel fumes as the report suggests. She says NSTAR violated at least 12 regulations found in CMR. (333 CMR 11.00 Code of Massachusetts Regulations, Rights of Way Management)

Audience members shake their heads in wonder. What is the INTENT of the law? EPA says the label is the law and the label clearly states to avoid wind drift. NSTAR seems not to give any useful notices and MDAR seems not to do any checking up on the sprayers despite past complaints.

MDAR says that chemical lab testing shows there was no wind drift. GreenCAPE's Sue Phelan explains the errors in timing of the testing for the three mixed herbicides, metsulfuron methyl, imazapyr and fosamine ammonium, and lack of ability to test for fosamine ammonium, which is not normally mixed with other herbicides.



Does this look effective to you?

Previous spraying off Bay Road on conservation land makes one wonder. What is the goal of the spraying? It takes months before there is any browning on the trees, contrary to the MDAR report.

More head shaking. People are thinking—
No worry from Nstar or MDAR about long term health effects or the sole source aquifer that is our very sensitive water supply? No water testing has been done for those pesticides so therefore no worries? Is it possible that NSTAR will come back soon with a 2015 YOP that includes chemical spraying of foliage and MDAR will again rubber stamp it, despite warnings from EPA?

YES. Absolutely.
Will we just sit by again and take it?