

Letter from State Regulators to Spraying Victim--We Don't Believe You

Cape Cod's electric utility Nstar continues to conduct its vegetation management in secret and residents are not given timely notice to avoid the spray. This resulted in the spraying of people and animals at Seahorse Farm in Harwich on October 14th. At the November 3rd selectmen's meeting, farm owner Clare Bergh described watching as the workers walked near her property spraying all the vegetation and the wind blew the spray onto her and another horse owner. The matter was discussed in detail at the November 17th Selectmen's meeting, where she showed pictures of her resulting rash and described how she was told that the spray wouldn't bother the horses and the workers refused to stop. Rep. Sarah Peake and Senator Dan Wolf urged Selectmen to write to the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources which is responsible for approving and monitoring the vegetation management plans.

Read or download the Selectmen's letter:

- [Harwich Selectmen Letter to MDAR](#) "...We believe that prior notice to town agencies is a necessity, independent observers funded by the utilities of the actual spraying is critical and alternative means and methods of vegetation control be presented for individual town consideration and approval."

The MDAR report was received several days later. Several weeks after the spraying two of the three pesticides in use was tested for. None of the inert ingredients in the spray was tested. Michael McClean, MDAR Row Coordinator, found no evidence of drift and suggested it was the exhaust fumes from the mist blowers that caused her problem.

Read and download the MDAR report:

- [MDAR Investigation of Seahorse Farm Spraying](#) "... There are no pesticide regulations that specify a wind speed to halt spraying of pesticides..."

So NSTAR is blameless? Not by a long shot. A self-proclaimed green company is not addressing long-term public health issues of pesticides (lethal dose testing on unfortunate animals is not the same as testing on humans of all ages, which is not done.) Secondly, the health of our extremely fragile water supply is not being monitored or protected. And thirdly, look at the picture that accompanied McClean's report. Is there anything growing there that threatens the electrical towers? The issue is on the Selectmen's meeting agenda for Monday, December 8th at Harwich Town Hall and is open to the public. NSTAR reps are expected to attend.

