

Barnstable County Ad - Hoc Committee  
On Risk Analysis of Vegetation Management Practices  
On Cape Cod

To Whom It May Concern,

The proposed use of herbicides/pesticides on NStar rights of way to manage vegetation has raised important questions regarding the consistency of these practices and the protection of our drinking water supply on Cape Cod.

The Barnstable County Commissioners appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee On Risk Analysis of Vegetation Management Practices on Cape Cod. The Committee asked to review the current regulatory review program and to develop recommendations for short-term and long-range strategies to reduce or eliminate vegetation management practices that may pose a threat to Cape Cod drinking water, the public health and the environment.

A broad range of stakeholders were invited to participate. The Committee reviewed and discussed the existing Federal and State scientific review and regulatory procedures, subsurface transport, health impacts and organic landscaping alternatives. The following white page outlines the work done by the Committee.

Acting to the fullest extent of our authority, Barnstable County and the Cape Cod Commission negotiated a one year moratorium on herbicide spraying last January. This gave the Commission an opportunity to work with NStar to map existing private and public wells within the utility rights of way using the best available information and technology.

This white page outlines potential “next steps” to build on the work already done to protect our drinking water. More work remains. There is no current regional or local authority to ban the substances discussed by the Committee. It became evident contributions of herbicides come from many sources. It is clear that more study and public education is necessary.

Over the coming weeks stakeholders should use this work to develop a specific plan to identify, monitor and reduce herbicide and pesticide use on Cape Cod.

All Committee presentations, documents and minutes to meeting can found at [barnstablecounty.org](http://barnstablecounty.org)