



CITY OF AUGUSTA, MAINE

Community Services Department

PARKS, CEMETERIES & TREES BUREAU

JAMES GOULET
DIRECTOR

To: City Council
From: Jim Goulet, Director Parks, Cemeteries and Trees
John Charest, Director Public Works
Subject: Vegetative Management and Herbicide Spraying
Date: July 14, 2010

This memo shall serve as a request to lift the moratorium on the use of herbicides in the City parks, athletic fields, cemeteries, walking trails, roadways and sidewalks. The attached pictures attest to the effects this moratorium has created. Not only are these weeds unsightly it makes the city look un-kept, left unchecked it will have a destructive effect on our City's infrastructure

Best Practices for Vegetation Management includes a wide range of activities: including ground cover / weed barriers, mechanical means, i.e. pulling and cutting weeds, roadside mower cutting, burning with torches and application of chemical. The method selected is influenced by the weed pest creating the problem, the surroundings, employee and public safety, and the money available for control. This City makes best use of all the available methods to provide effective vegetation management; however, having a moratorium on herbicide has removed an effective tool we had in our arsenal.

To date, there is no environmental, economical feasible and safe ROW vegetation management plan which eliminates the use of herbicide altogether. Many of the species growing in the ROW thrive under adverse conditions; many are invasive and persistent and cannot be adequately controlled without chemical treatment. Poison Ivy in particular, is not only invasive and persistent, but poses a potential health hazard to mechanical equipment operators, as well as the general public. Most recently we have had several Park employees who experienced acute exposure to poison ivy, while using mechanical means to remove weed and brush debris.

Thus far herbicides made of natural- based products used to control vegetation have not been effective. Natural products made of Acetic acid, Citrus distillates, Pine Oil are expensive often costing ten-times more than synthetics and require multiple applications to do the same work. Also many of these products are hazardous to the applicators who apply these products. The problem with many of the Natural products is that they are contact inhibitors and not systemic where the roots are killed. The cost to manage unwanted vegetation using natural-based products or using mechanical means methods is 8-10 times more expensive than using an approved product such as Glyphosate. For example the estimated cost for vegetation management of City roads would be \$80,000.00 vs. \$10,000.00 (2009 actual cost was \$7,810). We also need to consider the

amount of time were exposing our employees to traffic hazards if mechanical means is used.

When chemicals are used, they are strictly regulated; every City employee applicator or Vegetation Management Contractor who works for the Bureau of Parks or Public Works is a licensed professional with the State of Maine and is responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable laws. Training for continued certification is on-going and training credits must be earned to remain licensed within the State.

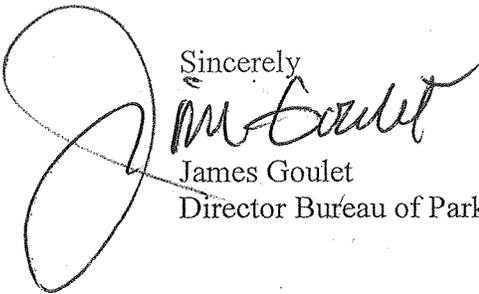
In past years the exposure to the public by pesticides has been a major concern, the chemicals presenting the greatest dangers have all been suspended by the US EPA. The chemicals currently used for vegetation control are low risk, when used according to label instructions. These chemicals are used to manage thousands of miles of roadside vegetation in Maine and in the nation every year. These products include Round-up and generic versions which are available at any hardware or lawn care center for use by the general public, the active ingredient is Glyphosate; typically 2% mixture of this product is used.

As we have previously mentioned we do use the best methods available to us to provide an effective vegetation management program that protects the environment, the safety of our employees and general public, and protects the infrastructure of the City; we can do this in a responsible fashion.

See Attachments:

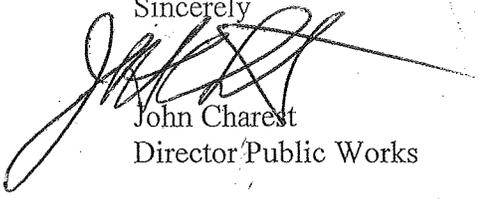
- Memo from Lebel Hicks PHD DABT
- Photos

Sincerely



James Goulet
Director Bureau of Parks

Sincerely



John Charest
Director Public Works



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

SETH BRADSTREET
COMMISSIONER
HENRY JENNINGS
DIRECTOR

TO: Leif Dahlin, Community Services Director, City of Augusta
FROM: Lebelle Hicks PhD DABT, Pesticide Toxicologist, Board of Pesticides Control
RE: Status of the Roundup-Glyphosate Review

July 15, 2010

My apologies that this project is taking such a long time, but as I related to the City Council last fall, this is not the only project I'm working on. On my plate right now, I have two presentations which are due before the end of August and a review of an herbicide for DEP. In addition, my routine duties include responding to consumer questions regarding pesticides and they consume a good deal of my time, especially this time of year

The glyphosate review has taken longer than planned and covered a great number of reports and recently published scientific articles. These included the studies submitted by your concerned citizens that raised some questions, which will be addressed in upcoming federal EPA reviews. In the meantime, I have not found sufficient negative effects to warrant regulatory action on the part of the Board.

The reason this information was not presented to the city council on July 8th was a decision to ask the Board's Medical Advisory Committee for peer review of the document, not unlike a second opinion from a physician. This six member committee is a group of physicians and toxicologists with varied backgrounds and expertise. This committee will ultimately make a recommendation to the Board about no action, further review and/or regulatory action.

At this point, there are a large number of glyphosate products, in addition to other herbicides, registered by both EPA and the Board that may be legally applied according to label directions by appropriately licensed city or contract employees. Please feel free to contact our office if you need any assistance in confirming either the registration or licensing status of products or individuals.







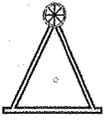












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Vassalboro, Maine 04989
Telephone: (207) 923-3443
Fax: (207) 923-3648

Morin Land Surveying

June 25, 2010

City of Augusta
C/O William Bridgeo City Manager
16 Cony Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

RE: Northern Ave (Fire Station)

William Bridgeo:

I am inquiring about the old fire station located on Northern Avenue in Augusta. I grew up in the area and I am looking to relocate and was wondering if the City would be interested in selling the building and land that it is located on. If the City has any interest in selling this parcel, I would be interested in having a meeting to discuss the details such as cost and use.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Morin

AUGUSTA
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
2010 JUN 28 A 8:10

*P.C.
Morin
Council*

