

Appendix A

Evaluation of the VTrans Infra-Red Weed Burner

The Vermont Agency of Transportation in cooperation with the Vermont Railway System and the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council intends to continue the investigation of the effectiveness of the infra-red weed burner equipment on railroad rights of way.

The investigation will evaluate both the gross effectiveness as well as the costs of the operation when used to maintain short sections of rail right of way located adjacent sensitive areas. One of the goals of the study is to develop an operation and guidance manual. A picture survey will document the results of the evaluation as well as providing visual guidance on the operation of the equipment.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) will provide funding for the maintenance and operation of the infra-red weed burner for this study and both VTrans and the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council (VPAC) will provide technical expertise in evaluating the effectiveness of the process, developing an operation manual, and writing a final report

VTrans will work in partnership with Vermont Railway to develop the details of the study.

VTrans remains committed to promoting the infra-red equipment and making it available to all rail lines in the state.

Work Plan for Railway Infra-Red Vegetative Management Project

- Move unit to Vermont Railway facility for any required repairs.
- Work with railroad to identify and locate areas to be treated. Start a video log of the test sites.
- Develop protocol for treatment timing.
- Monitor equipment operation and develop procedures and guidance.
- Submit a final report.