



Urban Forest Management, Inc.

November 10, 2009

Ms. Stacy Alberts Sigman
Village Manager
Village of Northfield
361 Happ Road
Northfield, IL 60093

RE: ComEd Seeding of Prairie Plants

Dear Stacy:

Linnea, Dave, and I had our second meeting today with representatives of ComEd to continue the development of The Vegetation Management Plan for the ComEd property under the transmission lines that run through the Village. The final plan that will be submitted to the Village will be implemented over a five year period.

The first step in the plan is for ComEd to seed the areas on their property that are not hard surfaces or maintained turf. The goal is to establish plants that will be suitable to the specific site conditions, provide a "natural" appearance, and create a sustainable ground plane cover. At our first planning meeting, I raised the question of the need for additional site preparation work in advance of the seeding to help ensure the success of the seeding effort. At that time no further site preparation work was anticipated by ComEd's seeding contractor. At the meeting today we learned that a further review of the site found that there are areas which are to be seeded where some very aggressive invasive grass species have taken a foothold. If these invasive grasses are not successfully eliminated, then they will not only reduce the success of the seeding, they also will continue to spread and will continue to be an ongoing maintenance problem. The recommendation from ComEd's contractor was to apply Roundup prior to seeding in order to kill the invasive grass plants. ComEd wanted to discuss this recommendation with the Village to make sure that the Village was comfortable with recommendation.

Roundup has been on the market since 1976. It is the brand name for a Monsanto product which is one of many products on the market that contain the active ingredient glyphosate. Glyphosate is the most used herbicide in the country by professionals and homeowners. This is an entirely different product that was previously sprayed.

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The proper application of Roundup as recommended by the ComEd contractor is the most effective and a very safe way to eliminate the invasive grasses. For the seeding to have its best chance for success and to limit the potential spread of the invasive grasses, they must be effectively removed. The ComEd contractor is well qualified to do this work and is capable safely applying the herbicide in accordance with the label instructions.

It is my recommendation that Roundup be used to eliminate the invasive grasses as proposed by ComEd's contractor.

Please call if you have questions.

Sincerely,
URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT, INC.



Charles A. Stewart
Vice President