

From: Peter Fiore

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 11:28 AM

To: Claire Ricker; Eugene Benson; Kin Lau; Stephen Revilak; Rachel Zsembery; Ashley Maher

Subject: MBTA Communities Zones

Dear Chair Zsembery, Director Ricker, et. al.,

Attached is the memorandum from the Arlington Board of Health issued with demolition permit applications. It tells developers the requirements for addressing the rat problem in Arlington. Please publish it with this correspondence.

The current plan for the MBTA Communities Zones will lead to the displacement of an unknown number of rats into the neighborhoods abutting buildings that will be demolished. The measures taken to prevent this are NOT 100% effective.

The landfills in Massachusetts are estimated to reach capacity and close by the year 2030. Massachusetts has a solid waste problem. In the absence of legally mandated green demolition practices the demolitions in Arlington resulting from the size, scope, and scale of the MBTA Communities plan will only make the problem worse. Perfectly good housing stock and buildings will end up as unrecovered, unrecycled solid waste in landfills.

Please limit the number of dislocated rats and the tons of solid waste by scaling back the size of the plan.

Respectfully submitted,
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Memo

To: Demolition Applicants
From: Annette Curbow, Health Compliance Officer
Date: February 1, 2023
RE: Integrative Pest Management Requirements for Demolitions

In 2021, the Arlington Health Department updated their demolitions requirements so that the interior and exterior of the property must be inspected by a licensed Pest Control Operator (PCO) for the presence of pests and rodents. The PCO shall assess the property and develop an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) treatment plan that will be in place prior to commencing demolition activities and remain in place through the duration of the project. A copy of the pest control inspection report and IPM treatment plan must be submitted with all demolition applications.

What is the BOH looking for in an IPM treatment plan?

As part of the demolition application, contractors must provide a copy of the IMP treatment plan that includes:

- A summary of the property assessment and level of activity noted
- If needed, sanitation and mechanical prevention suggestions
- If needed, installed rodent control equipment (i.e. snap traps in tamper proof boxes)
- Ongoing monitoring activities
- **If rodenticides are used**, explain previous treatment attempts and PCO rational for deploying rodenticides

What is integrated pest management?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

An IPM approach at a demolition site means that the PCO has completed a thorough assessment of the property. Following the assessment, they should identify and suggest sanitation and mechanical controls to prevent rodent activity. If during their assessment, rodent activity is identified, the PCO should take an IPM approach by implementing non-toxic rodent control methods first such as snap traps or dry-ice treatment. When following IPM, rodenticides should always be reserved as a last resort for severe rodent infestations.