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Dear Neighbor:

We write to provide you an update on transmission line work we call our Franklin County Line Upgrade Project. You may recall that in May we sent you a letter seeking to make you aware we were intending to do field assessment work on or near your property within the VELCO right-of-way (ROW). While there is more field assessment work to be done in the coming months, we are pleased to be able to now share preliminary project details with you.

***What is the preliminary project scope?***

The proposed project is to rebuild the power line from our Georgia Substation to our Highgate Substation. It includes replacing deteriorating two-pole wood structures with more resilient single-pole steel structures, although some two-pole structures will be required in certain locations. As part of this project, we will also replace the conductor, known more commonly as the wire. The rebuilt line will be in the same general location as today, but shifted 10-15 feet toward the eastern side of the corridor with a 30-foot increase in height. Once the new structures are installed and the conductor is energized, the old structures will be removed from the power line corridor.

***What can you expect?***

***Additional Field Assessments:***

VELCO and its contractors will continue field assessments through the fall, walking the corridor that runs over your property. Our purpose is to review existing conditions, perform construction site reviews and continue surveys to identify suitable access points, laydown areas for materials during construction, and trees that pose an unacceptable risk to the new line.

***Soil Borings:***

In order to safely reposition the new poles, VELCO will need to conduct approximately 30 soil borings in October at various points along the 16.6-mile route. These borings are completed using a tracked rig with an auger and will be temporary in nature. Our commitment is that any disturbed area will be stabilized and restored. Additionally, no work will be done without first giving advance notice if in fact a soil boring needs to take place on your property.

***Vegetation Maintenance and Tree Clearing:***

The new location of the poles will be closer to the edge of the corridor, and will require tree clearing to the full extent of the right-of-way where it is not already cleared to the full 150' width. Trees outside of the ROW that pose a reliability threat to the new line will also need to be removed. Rob Naramore and Raven Buttice from VELCO's Real Estate and Right-of-Way team will work directly with you and your neighbors seeking to collaboratively confirm/acquire rights to additional trees. Enclosed, please find introductory profiles of Rob and Raven. They will serve as your main points of contact for ROW matters and look forward to working with you throughout the project.

In 2023, VELCO will perform our regularly scheduled vegetation maintenance work that happens every four years along the right-of-way over your property. This work will include a combination of VELCO's



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typical vegetation treatment and removal methods including hand cutting by mechanical means, mowing, and/or herbicide application. In 2024 as part of the proposed project, VELCO will begin clearing trees on both sides of the corridor where necessary to create safe distances between trees and the relocated transmission line. This clearing is required by federal regulation to ensure a safe and reliable electric transmission system.

#### *Community Meetings:*

Keeping you, your neighbors and the entire community and associated stakeholders appropriately informed is a fundamental requirement of all VELCO projects. We recognize that our reliability work impacts your daily life. We will strive to keep you informed throughout the entire process, listen and respond to your concerns, and engage with each of the four communities that host this important piece of our statewide electric grid. The VELCO project team is organizing community meetings in each of these towns and you will receive an invitation in the coming weeks once dates and locations are confirmed. These community meetings provide a forum to learn all aspects of interest about the project including the new line's purpose, proposed design, and work timeline. They offer a unique opportunity to discuss your specific concerns or questions with the project team and offer them your feedback. We sincerely hope you are able to join us.

#### **For more information**

Ensuring that you are kept informed on our work is important to us and we will continue to provide regular project updates. A project website is available at [www.velco.com/fclu](http://www.velco.com/fclu). In addition, please just contact me anytime at 802-770-6375 or email [abrown@velco.com](mailto:abrown@velco.com) with any questions about this project. As a next step, please know that my colleagues Rob and Raven (again, profiles enclosed) will reach out to you in the coming months to ensure you'll have the opportunity to discuss specific project plans that impact your property.

If you have questions that you'd like answered before then, or would like to let us know that you're interested in an in-person meeting at your property, please call or email me.

VELCO is committed to serve as a trusted partner and good neighbor as we work to fulfill our transmission system reliability responsibilities. Thank you for your engagement as this important project moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ally Brown', is written over a light blue circular background.

Ally Brown

Real Estate & ROW Lead