



February 14, 2023

Dear Neighbor,

I am writing to share a few important updates with you about our Franklin County Line Upgrade Project, including vegetation management work starting next week and right-of-way (ROW) assessments that will be taking place in February and March.

### *Vegetation Inventory*

On February 21, VELCO foresters will begin a five-week inspection of the right-of-way to identify and mark trees that will need to be removed as part of VELCO's routine vegetation maintenance work and to support the Franklin County Line Upgrade Project. This on-the-ground field inventory will be guided by the Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data we collected to accurately identify tree attributes including location and height. This inspection will inform the following two tracks of work:

- **2023 vegetation maintenance** – VELCO will identify vegetation that requires management as part of our routine, four-year vegetation maintenance cycle scheduled in 2023. VELCO foresters will be looking for vegetation that may cause a risk to the existing line and will mark danger trees outside of the right-of-way to be removed with a commonly used orange X.
- **Franklin County Line Upgrade Project vegetation inventory** – VELCO will identify vegetation and danger trees outside of the right-of-way to be removed as part of the Franklin County Line Upgrade Project in 2024 and 2025. VELCO foresters will be looking for vegetation that may cause a risk to the new line and will mark danger trees outside of the right-of-way with an orange, three-inch dot.<sup>1</sup> To be clear, the markings are intended to help inform future discussions between landowners and VELCO foresters, and will not be cut until after we discuss danger tree rights with the landowner and the project is permitted.

If you are interested in scheduling a time to meet with a VELCO forester to discuss the vegetation inventory and identified danger trees outside the right-of-way, please use our scheduling form at [www.velco.com/meetwithforester](http://www.velco.com/meetwithforester) or call VELCO Right-of-Way Manager, Allyson Brown at 802-770-6357. Our project team will collect the requests and contact interested landowners to schedule an appointment in the spring and summer.

### *Staking Edge of Right-of-Way*

In order to identify vegetation along the outer-edge of our right-of-way that needs to be removed, Vermont licensed land surveyor, Barnard & Gervais, will be staking the eastern edge of the right-of-way. The stakes and ribbon will be removed after VELCO foresters have completed their vegetation inventory.

---

<sup>1</sup> Rob Naramore and Raven Buttice from VELCO's Real Estate and Right-of-Way team are in the process of meeting with every landowner to collaboratively confirm/acquire rights to additional trees. At the date of this letter, Rob and Raven were working with landowners in St. Albans and continue to move north on the right-of-way.

### *Soil Borings*

In order to safely position the new poles, VELCO will conduct approximately 25 soil borings in February and March at various points along the 16.6-mile route. This work, originally scheduled to take place last fall, will be performed by S.W. Cole. These borings are completed using a tracked rig with an auger and the rig will be accompanied by a Utility Terrain Vehicle. Our commitment is that any disturbed area will be stabilized and restored. VELCO Right-of-Way specialists will contact you by phone to notify you about soil borings on your property.

### *Underground Locator Work*

Assessments of underground utility infrastructure will begin the last week of February. DigSafe Vermont will complete underground markings for main utility services owned and installed by utility companies. Vermont-based underground locator, TCE will perform underground location assessments in pre-identified areas for underground facilities that are owned by property owners (i.e., septic lines). If you have underground infrastructure in the ROW, please contact the VELCO ROW Department to ensure appropriate measures are in place to prevent any damage to it that may not be identified through DigSafe Vermont.

### ***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) where project information can be found, including our previous correspondence about the project. Project updates are also available electronically. Please sign up at the above website address to be added to the email list. A QR code can also be found below to go directly to the website.

As always, please feel free to reach out directly to the Project Team if you have any questions about the project. You can reach me at 802-770-6381 or [slouiselle@velco.com](mailto:slouiselle@velco.com). Thank you for your continued engagement as this important project advances.

Sincerely,



Shana Louiselle  
Communications Manager  
Vermont Electric Power Company

*This QR Code is designed to be scanned using a camera on a smartphone. Open your smart phone camera, focus the camera on the QR code image, and tap on the URL link to go directly to the Franklin County Line Upgrade Project webpage.*

