# IMPORTANT ANNUAL NOTICE REGARDING HERBICIDE USE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRIC UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC Rule 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.

**If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:**

1. **Sign up to receive written notification** from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2024 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
2. **You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware** of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
3. **Watch and listen for public service announcements** in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
4. **Check with your local electric utility** regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
5. **You have the right** to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
6. **You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are distribution lines, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
7. **You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a $30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **transmission lines** or sub-transmission lines, bringing electricity to or between substations.

**For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:**

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|---|---|---|
| **(leave blank for local electric co. mailing address and phone)** | **Agency of Agriculture**<br>**Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt**<br>**116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602**<br>**1-802-828-2431** | **Department of Public Service**<br>**Consumer Affairs & Public Information**<br>**112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620**<br>**1-800-622-4496** |

**Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 20**

**Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | Home Phone Number |
| Street Address | Work Phone Number |
| Town<br>State Zip Code | O.K. to use work number? Yes No<br>(circle one) |
| Electric Utility Account Number | Best time to contact you |

Affected Property: Year-Round Residence Summer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply

Organic Farm Land Other

Line/Pole Identification:

Utility Initials Pole Numbers

Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification.

**MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15TH, 2024**