

Supporting Broadband Deployment for Strong Communities, and a Modern Electric Grid

By Rebecca Towne

We know connectivity matters deeply to our members and the communities we serve. It is relevant for the future

of the electric grid as well, and VEC has an important role to play. For years VEC has been exploring how we can be a catalyst in expanding broadband services in our 75 communities, in a way that aligns with our core mission of providing safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity to our members.

After exploring many options, and conducting a feasibility study, we have decided to focus primarily on making our infrastructure ready to safely carry broadband fiber, and support local broadband providers in a collaborative, creative way as they pursue planning and deployment.

Smoothing the Way

So how does this work in practice? Once internet providers determine a route for deployment, they reach out to VEC so that we can prepare the infrastructure to safely support fiber. VEC conducts a field survey to determine any changes that are necessary, which can involve moving electric wires to other locations on our poles to make room for fiber, or even fully replacing poles. As you can imagine, as we work to safely ensure resilient infrastructure for many years into the future, preparing hundreds of miles of VEC infrastructure for this new technology

can be time-consuming and costly.

In 2021 VEC got approval from regulators to dedicate \$3 million to support make-ready work through 2023. This means that VEC offers a discount to the providers on the cost to prepare the poles based on the number of addresses served by the project that do not currently have internet service. The goal is to encourage those providers to more quickly reach addresses that are truly without Internet and often are hard and costly to reach - and in doing so enable them to bring, or improve, internet service to underserved members along the way. This cost-sharing arrangement has been well-received by broadband providers, and while it's only a small part of the cost they incur - it is a meaningful step in support of their deployment.

Internet and the Grid

VEC prioritizes broadband because it supports thriving rural communities, but for us just as important is broadband's relevance to the future of the electric grid. As the electricity system evolves, there will be many more distributed devices connected to the grid that will be part of a dynamic flow of increasingly renewable electricity that powers homes, businesses, transportation and heating. Two recent VEC programs - our electric vehicle charger program and our residential battery program – involve connected devices that can

be managed by VEC during times of peak demand to reduce power supply costs. The batteries can be discharged to help provide additional power to the grid, and the electric vehicle chargers are turned off to reduce demand. Both of these programs provide value to the particular member who allows VEC to manage their devices in the form of bill credits, but importantly also to all VEC members because doing so helps reduce cost for the system as a whole. Of course, all of this relies on internet communications.

We anticipate our future will bring many more electric vehicles, connected heat pumps, and other technologies that will have this same interplay with our grid all with the goal of maximizing the relationship between when power is available and when it is used by our members.

You can learn more about how broadband is being deployed in VEC territory on page 4 where we offer an overview of the three local Communications Union Districts. Besides the CUDs, we are also are working closely with other providers such as Comcast, Consolidated Communications, Mansfield Fiber, Kingdom Fiber and others. Regardless of the provider, our new broadband make-ready initiative and our collaboration is designed to help bring our members cost-effective broadband over the coming years. This has been a long-time goal of so many in Vermont, and we are proud to be a part of making it happen.

Brunner to Lead VEC Innovation and Technology Efforts



Cyril Brunner

Cyril Brunner, who has served as VEC's Manager of Engineering for the last six years, was recently named as VEC's Innovation and Technology Leader. His deep background in utility engineering and capital investment will help VEC take advantage of emerging opportunities in the dynamic energy sector.

VEC faces a huge chal-

lenge to cost-effectively support the electrification of transportation and heating and reach 100 percent renewable sources by 2030 to mitigate climate change, all the while maintaining reliability in the midst of more damaging weather events and likely grid constraints. Cyril will be focused on tackling

these challenges in four areas:

- Expanding VEC's Energy Transformation and load management programs.
- Guiding VEC's information technology department and enhancing existing technologies.
- Implementing new resiliency efforts and leading VEC's cybersecurity team.
- Fostering a company-wide culture of innovation.

"VEC has a long history of innovation, yet energy and technology are changing faster than ever," noted Rebecca Towne, VEC's chief executive officer. "Cyril will help VEC with a renewed focus on the future, monitoring what's happening around the world and across the country, and assessing which innovations and technologies might be the right fit for rural Vermont, always with a sharp eye on impacts on lower-income members," she said. She also noted that much of Cyril's work will be fo-

cused on enabling quicker outage response, utilizing more data from the grid, and constantly improving service to members. In addition, Cyril will lead VEC's cybersecurity team.

Besides focusing on energy transformation and technology, Cyril will continue to foster a companywide culture of innovation, where employees think creatively and embrace new ways of doing things.

In his spare time, Cyril (pronounced "Sir ill") enjoys backcountry skiing, mountain biking and trail building. He lives with his wonderful partner Kenzie and two dogs, Dexter and Tucker, in Nebraska Valley, Stowe.

"I have a thirst for implementing effective and creative pathways that allow us to strengthen our staff and the member experience at VEC," he said. "I take great pride in building teams to collaborate and provide them with the tools to get things done."

A Good Time for Co-op Community Solar?



Would you like to save money on your electric bills and support a cleaner energy future? Maybe it's time - if you have not already joined in - to check out VEC's Co-op Community Solar.

With Co-op Community Solar you make an upfront payment to sponsor panels in VEC's existing solar arrays and then receive a fixed, guaranteed monthly bill credit for either 10 or 20 years. In the end, the bill credits total more than the upfront payment.

The program is:

- Customizable you can sponsor as many panels as you want, with certain caps.
- Flexible you can add panels any time, or even leave the program and get a partial refund.
- Convenient you can set up your sponsorship entirely remotely, via phone and email. Enrollment involves no on-site installations, or in-person meetings.

VEC member Candice Campbell of Derby sponsored panels several years ago and says she's glad she did.

"This program takes the burden off the homeowner for maintenance, which is great. I really commend VEC for developing a program where people can participate in solar so easily," Campbell said.

Another VEC member, Alejandra Barrenechea of Williston, is also happy with her decision to sponsor panels in the program.

"By sponsoring panels in VEC arrays, I didn't have to worry about maintenance, or cutting trees on my own property, and I could still reduce my carbon footprint," she said. "It was the best of both worlds. I don't think there is any negative to this program and I'd highly recommend it to other VEC members."

Find out more here: vermontelectric.coop/co-op-community-solar, or call Member Services at 1-800-832-2667.

Solar Power For People, Not Profit.

Vermont Electric Cooperative is member-owned and committed to the best interests of our members and their communities. This is why we developed VEC Co-op Community Solar—an easy and efficient way for all VEC members to get great value while supporting clean electricity.

VEC Co-op Community Solar is perfect for folks renting their home and for houses with a shady site or unsuitable roof.

Members simply make a one-time upfront payment (starting at just \$100) to sponsor a portion of the solar array and receive a guaranteed fixed monthly credit on their electric bill.

Participants can opt out at any time for any reason, and get back a prorated portion of their sponsorship. Ten and twenty year terms are available and so is affordable financing.

With projects up and running in Alburgh, Grand Isle and Hinesburg, now is a good time to support solar with VEC Co-op Community Solar.

For more information, visit vermontelectric.coop/solar or call 1-800-832-2667.







Headquartered in Johnson, Vermont Electric Cooperative serves 32,000 members, 2,882 miles of distribution line, 2,056 square miles of territory, and 75 communities in eight counties.

Paperless Delivery Now Available for Co-op Life

Co-op Life is our time-honored, flagship quarterly publication that for years we have mailed directly to all of our members. We know that many of our members prefer a hard-copy publication. At the same time, we are happy to accommodate members who prefer a digital version, what we call "paperless Co-op Life."

Members who prefer a paperless version may opt out of receiving a mailed copy and instead sign up to get a simple email with a quick summary of Co-op Life stories and links to the online version, as soon as it's posted on our website.

If you would like to get a link to the online version instead of a mailed copy, please visit **www.vermontelectric.coop/co-op-life** and fill out the form. Thank you!

Would You Like to Serve on the VEC Board of Directors?

VEC is seeking petitions from eligible candidates for three seats on the board of directors that are up for election in May.

"Serving on the board is a great opportunity to serve your community by engaging on some of the most important issues of our time: climate change, energy affordability and electric reliability," said Rebecca Towne, VEC's chief executive officer. "Our board members have a range of perspectives and backgrounds, and that serves our members well," she said. "If you have ever considered running, why not consider it this year?"

In order to run for the board, a candidate must be a VEC member and may not be employed by the cooperative. Candidates must have a principal residence within VEC service territory and in the district they are running to represent. Directors are elected to serve four-year terms. The board generally meets in the afternoon on the last Tuesday of each month, either at VEC's main office in Johnson or virtually via teleconference.

Directors receive a stipend and mileage reimbursement for attending meetings and have training opportunities to learn more about energy issues and the cooperative model.

Below is a list of the seats that are open in 2022 and the towns they represent:

District 3:

Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, Greensboro, Irasburg, Jay, Lowell, Newport Town, Troy, Westfield

District 4:

Bakersfield, Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Fairfax, Fairfield, Fletcher, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, Waterville

District 5:

Bolton, Essex, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, Shelburne, Starksboro, St. George, Underhill, Westford, Williston

To learn more or request application materials, please call Laura Kinney at 802-730-1172 or email her at lkinney@vermontelectric.coop.



Board member Paul Lambert and his daughters Meredith (left) and Jacqueline at the 2019 annual meeting at Jay Peak Resort.

VEC's Board of Directors: An Overview

VEC is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors that represent the membership. The board has fiduciary responsibility for setting broad policy in accordance with statute and the co-op bylaws in determining the overall operation and direction of the co-op.

Among other things, the board reviews and approves the co-op's financial management, and related retirement of member capital, when it's financially feasible. The board reviews and approves the annual strategic plan and conducts longer term, high level, multiyear planning. The board is also responsible for the hiring and oversight of VEC's chief executive officer and for reporting the past year's progress at VEC's Annual Meeting of the Membership.

Board members also bring questions and concerns from VEC members to the full board and staff when necessary.

Charge it Up!

Since VEC launched our ChargeltUp program back in the summer of 2020, 18 lucky VEC members have each won a \$100 bill credit in our ChargeltUp drawing.

Do you have electric-powered equipment – maybe an electric snowblower for example – you'd like to enter to win?

Here is how it works: VEC's ChargeltUp program allows members who purchase certain types of electric-powered items that have traditionally been powered by fossil fuels – including electric snowblowers, weed whackers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, and motorcycles for instance - to enter the monthly drawing by sharing a photo of the equipment and some notes about their experience with it.

VEC member Frank Rillo of Eden, one of our Chargeltup winners, owns an Ego battery powered weed whacker and says it's "light, portable, quiet and instant-on," and notes that when he walks around his yard between trim jobs, the device isn't idling like a gas trimmer would. Other winners have noted the time saved by not having to buy jugs of gasoline and fill gas tanks.

The ChargeltUp program is complementary to VEC's Energy Transformation Program in that it offers an incentive for the purchase of electricity-powered devices that displace fossil fuels like gasoline or diesel fuel but for which there is no direct bill credit. Winners for each Chargelt-Up monthly drawing are selected at random on or about the first business day of the month from among all eligible entries received during the previous month(s). Non-winning entries are carried over into subsequent months. Bill credits are awarded in the month of the drawing. Find more, and enter, here: vermontelectric.coop/chargeitup-program.



Advancing Innovation and Connectivity, VEC Works with CUDs to Support Broadband Deployment

VEC is working with a range of communications entities across our territory to promote the smooth and timely deployment of broadband services to our members who until now have had no service, or inadequate service. Bringing high-speed internet to rural parts of our territory has been a long-term need that may finally be addressed in a significant way.

In VEC territory, there are three CUDs: Northwest Fiberworx, Lamoille FiberNet, and NEK Community Broadband. The co-op is working with all of them – as well as communications service providers – to be sure that VEC utility poles, where they can be used, are ready for deployment of communications equipment as soon as carriers are ready to put it up. VEC has dedicated \$3 million to go toward this "make-ready" work to support the deployment of broadband.

Communication Union Districts in VEC Territory

Northwest Fiberworx

Vision/Mission: To break barriers to internet access for all in our communities through the development of an open-access fiber-to-the-premise network in the northwest region of Vermont.



Overview: Northwest Fiberworx (NWFX) — formerly the Northwest Vermont Communications Union District—was formed on August 3, 2020. NWFX believes the establishment of universal broadband internet service is critical to the vibrancy, success, and security of our communities. The need was already present, but the Covid-19 pandemic dramatically changed the way our children learn, how we receive health care, how we work, how we participate in our government, and how we communicate with our families and loved ones, near and far.

Early on, NWFX collaborated with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) to receive a Broadband Innovation Grant to complete a regional feasibility study. During this time, NWFX also completed a regional survey to further assess our communities' broadband needs, and the need is extensive—of the 26,321 premises in our area, 2,5339 are unserved (do not have any connectivity), and 7,837 are underserved (do not meet the FCC standard for broadband, i.e. 25/3 Mbps). This means that 30% of premises do not have adequate connectivity, and this is a big problem.

In addition, working with the State of Vermont and other partners, NWFX deployed 19 free Wi-Fi hotspots throughout our member communities; successfully applied for a number of grants, actively engaged with the legislature for broadband bills (H360/S118), and reached out to regional and national fiber providers to explore partnership opportunities.

Since Sean Kio's hiring in October 2020, NWFX was approved for Act 71/H360 pre-construction funding, hired part-time Administrative Support and a full-time Operations/Project Manager, and welcomed the town of Milton to the fold, the only member community from Chittenden County.

NWFX is in the midst of completing a comprehensive business plan for the phased approach to regional buildout. The CUD is actively meeting with an operator/initial provider of note, and efforts are well underway to secure the necessary agreements. Site surveys and related make-ready work (utility poles) is also underway, and high-level phase 1 detailed network design is soon to begin. The future for NWFX and the residents and business comprising its member towns and villages is promising, with Phase 1 implementation projected in late 2022.

Towns: NWFX currently comprises the following 19 member municipalities: Alburgh (Town and Village), Isle La Motte and North Hero in Grand Isle County; Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburg Falls, Enosburgh, Fairfax, Fairfield, Georgia, Highgate, Montgomery, Richford, Sheldon, St. Albans and Swanton (Town and Village) in Franklin County; and Milton in Chittenden County. (Each member municipality appoints a representative and alternate to the NWFX Governing Board.)

Contact: Sean Kio, Executive Director, director@nwcud.com

Website: www.nwcud.com

Lamoille FiberNet



Vision/Mission: The mission of Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District is to make locally controlled, affordable

and reliable high-speed internet service available to every address in our member towns – Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, Waterville and Wolcott – as soon as possible.

Current Initiatives/Goals: Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District is growing! Elmore has recently joined Lamoille FiberNet CUD which also includes Wolcott, Morrisville, Hyde Park, Stowe, Eden, Johnson, Waterville, Cambridge and Belvidere. Lamoille FiberNet is working in partnership with NW Fiberworx CUD to bring high speed, symmetrical fiber Internet to the unserved and underserved residents in our area.

Lamoille FiberNet is currently conducting financial modeling work and high-level design and hopes to break ground this summer on projects to bring broadband to its member towns, thanks in part to a \$1.2 million grant received from the Vermont Department of Public Service. The funds will go a long way in allowing the CUD to file the necessary applications and complete pre-construction planning and engineering. Costs covered include financial modeling, high level design, pole studies and the pole applications which are required to be able to attach fiber to the utility poles in Lamoille FiberNet's service area.

Towns: Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, Waterville and Wolcott.

Contact: Val Davis, executive director, director@lamoillefiber.net

Website: http://www.LamoilleFiber.net

Continued on page 5

What is a CUD, Anyway?

You may have heard of these new entities, known as Communications Union Districts, or CUDs that have formed across Vermont in recent years. But what exactly are they? And what do they do? **Communications Union** Districts are a form of municipality designed to help get communications infrastructure, including high-speed internet, built out in their areas. Because these districts represent groups of towns, CUDs can work efficiently and cost-effectively with private communications carriers to get infrastructure deployed across a given region of the state. In structure, CUDs are similar to other types of districts in Vermont, like solid waste districts or consolidated water districts. You can find more here: publicservice.vermont. gov/content/vermontcommunications-uniondistricts.

Car-Pole Accidents in VEC Territory on the Rise – Please Drive Safely

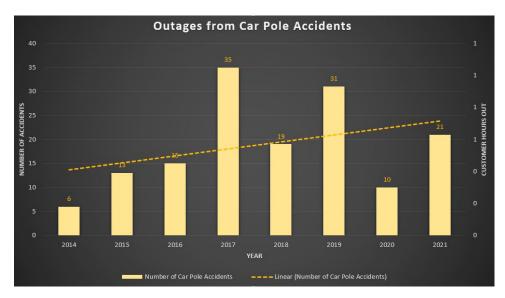
Winter is upon us, and that means unpredictable weather and often slippery roads.

Besides posing the risk of property damage, injury or even death, traffic accidents – no matter what time of year they take place – can knock the power out to significant numbers of members if vehicles collide with utility poles or other utility equipment. Depending on the amount of equipment repair necessary and the location of the collisions, these "car-pole" accidents can cause power outages of several hours to hundreds of members.

For instance, early on December 31 last year, a car-pole accident in Newport (see photo at right) knocked power out to about 360 members for 12 hours and 39 minutes.

The number of car-pole accidents vary by year, but over the past seven years the overall trend is on the rise. (See chart below).

"Our plea to our members and the general public is this: Please avoid distracted driving and drive to conditions by slowing down in bad weather and increasing your braking distance – and keep a sharp eye out for hazards," says VEC Chief Operating Officer Peter Rossi. "Fewer accidents on the roads is a good thing, and fewer collisions with utility equipment in particular means we can do a better job keeping the lights on for our members."





Continued from page 4

NEK Community Broadband

Overall Goal: Bring a reliable and affordable high-speed internet option (at least 100 mbps symmetrical) to every residential and business E-911 address in the Northeast Kingdom connected to an electric utility.

2021 Successes

- NEK Broadband will be developing public infrastructure and offering retail internet services directly to residents and businesses within the Northeast Kingdom and parts of Wolcott and Elmore.
- This fall we selected our partners to help accelerate what is anticipated as a 2,500 mile build over the next five to seven years. Our partners include Mission Broadband as adjunct staff, the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative for design and construction management, and Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom to offer the network operations and retail internet services necessary for NEK Broadband to provide quality, world-class service.
- In December, NEK Broadband began offering internet service in portions of Concord, Lunenburg, and Waterford.
- NEK Broadband placed an order for 1,000 miles of fiber as part of a collaborative effort to help assure material availability for us and several other CUDs.
- We took over ownership of a 170-mile network of fiber previously owned or leased by the state.
- **Get.nekbroadband.org** was established to gather information about interests and needs in each community and share information as we build the network.

2022 Initiatives/Goals

• The 2022 build strategy is to develop the backbone throughout the entire district. Construction is due to start in April or May. This is the foundation of any network and critical for



creating the redundancy and resiliency necessary in a rural build. Any town that wishes to have service available off the backbone when the backbone is built in their town may leverage their Fiscal Recovery Funds with a \$1 for \$1 match by the Vermont Community Broadband Board and a \$1 for \$1 match by NEK Broadband so that \$1 = \$3. For details on opportunities, email your selectboard, NEK Broadband delegate, or director@nekbroadband.org.

- Extensions in west Concord and east Waterford using a USDA RDBG grant will be completed by August.
- Internet service along the backbone fiber formerly owned by the state is expected by the end of 2022.
 - Grant funding for additional construction phases will be sought.

Towns: 52 out of the 55 towns in Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties belong to NEK Broadband. They are: Albany, Barnet, Barton, Bloomfield, Brighton, Brownington, Brunswick, Burke, Canaan, Concord, Coventry, Charleston, Craftsbury, Danville, Derby, East Haven, Glover, Greensboro, Groton, Guildhall, Hardwick, Holland, Irasburg, Jay, Kirby, Lowell, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Maidstone, Morgan, Newark, Newport City, Newport Town, Norton, Orleans, Peacham, Ryegate, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Stannard, Sutton, United Towns and Gores, Troy, Walden, Waterford, Westfield, Westmore, Wheelock, and Wolcott (Lamoille County).

Contact: Christa Shute, executive director, at director@nekbroadband.org, (802) 793-7077.

Website: https://nekbroadband.org/ (Sign up for updates at get.nekbroadband.org.)

Celebrating Over a Century of Combined Experience at VEC

Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. proudly recognizes our employees who celebrated benchmark anniversaries in 2021. Together these six employees have a combined 140 years of dedicated service to our members. They are experienced allies, partners, and leaders. They have made work better and kept our business strong. Below are a few reflections on these employees from work colleagues and supervisors. Congratulations!



CHAD LANOU 15 YEARS

Congratulations Chad for your fifteen years of service at VEC. You're a true leader. You approach every job by analyzing all the small details to make sure you're going to have less hurdles to overcome throughout the day. This type of work organization correlates directly to why all your jobs are done safely, equipment operating correctly, and making sure all your colleagues are going home safe.

Your approach to the job is to work smarter and not harder. When we need the correct tool, equipment, or a change to process you are a great advocate for what is better. Our goal is to make this a great place to work and your positive attitude helps keep the team on this path. Thank you for all the work you do, especially all of those on-call weeks. I appreciate the long hours, the extreme weather conditions, and the time you sacrifice with your family and friends to keep our members' lights on.

- Michael Cole, Senior Operations Supervisor.



TROY REYNOLDS 20 YEARS

Troy has been a great mentor to me personally here at VEC. He is one of the hardest working, organized, efficient people I have had the pleasure of working with over my career and is always willing to help others out at any time. He has a great sense of humor, wealth of industry knowledge, and common sense that is rare to come by these days. I rely on the guidance and expertise of Troy heavily almost every single day. VEC was extremely lucky to hire Troy 20 years ago and he will be sorely missed when he retires. Thanks for everything

- Tucker Williams, Utility Designer



ANGELA DANIELS 20 YEARS

Work ethic? Yours is paramount! You can get twelve hours of work out of an eighthour work day. And those of us that get to work with you often, know what real dedication and great collaboration looks like. You bring intelligence, common sense, humor, and a "we can do it" energy that just makes work feel better. You make a difference every day. It is hard to put it all down in black and white, just how much we all appreciate what you do; there just isn't enough paper. Thank you for all that you bring to VEC and our members.

- Michael Cole, Senior Operations Supervisor



SHAWN "HOBE" HOLBROOK, 20 YEARS

There is just something about being around Shawn that makes you want to smile and be yourself. I think Sara Packer (VEC's Vegetation Management Program Director) captured it perfectly when she said, "Not everyone possesses the ability to connect with and motivate others. Hobe not only possesses it, he lives to succeed at it! It's impossible to imagine our workplace without him!" Dave Young (VEC's Manager of Service Operations) adds to this by saying, "It is a pleasure to work with Shawn. He boosts morale wherever he goes and always has a story or something to say to make those around him laugh or smile. He coaches his peers and junior coworkers to be the best that they can be, always offering to teach, listen, and provide support. Shawn, you build us up. You are an inspiration and make VEC a better place to work." Congratulations on 20 years Hobe!

- Peter Rossi, Chief Operating Officer.



SHAWN JUAIRE 30 YEARS

Over the last seven years we have developed what I would like to call one of the best teams and culture that I have ever been associated with. We could not have achieved this without Shawn. His attention to detail and understanding of our system is rivaled by few. I appreciate the sacrifice of allowing the younger guys to gain experience with the bucket trucks when Grand Isle was awarded an eighth lineworker. I have enjoyed my time working with you Shawn, and hope to have a few more years. I could not have done it without you! Congratulations on your 30year milestone. It is an achievement many people in their careers will fall far short of

- Isaac Gillen, Manager of System Opera-



EVAN MERCY 35 YEARS

Wow, my friend, 35 years! Congratulations. Thank you for the many, many, many "engineering lessons" so I could understand what the crews were talking about. I have enjoyed the years of laughing, working, and bantering with each other. Here is to many more. - Denise Durivage, Operation and Engineering Coordinator.

My success as a Designer all started with Evan showing me the ropes of my newfound role within VEC. Still to this day, I call Evan for ideas with difficult scenarios. Experience is only gained through time and Evan's level of experience has been a huge asset to me and our members

- Bill Johnson, Utility Designer

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 <u>PUC 3.600</u> pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way. 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, 2022 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.

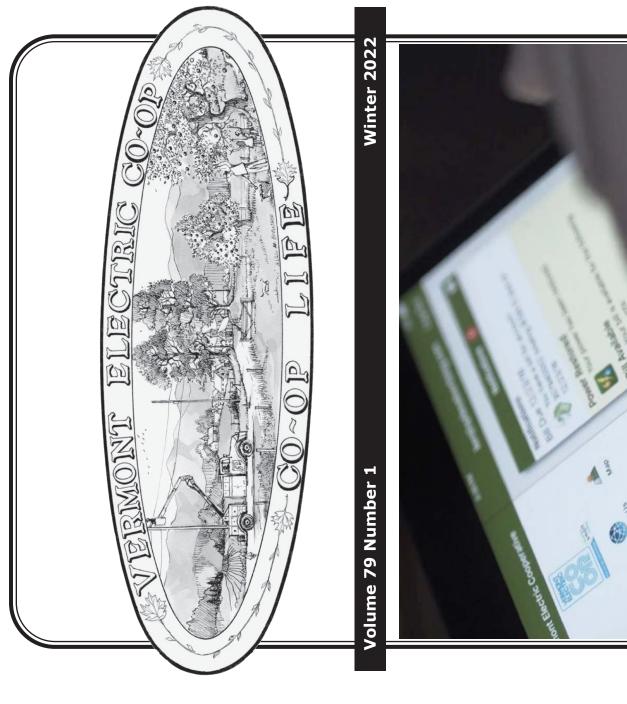
For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

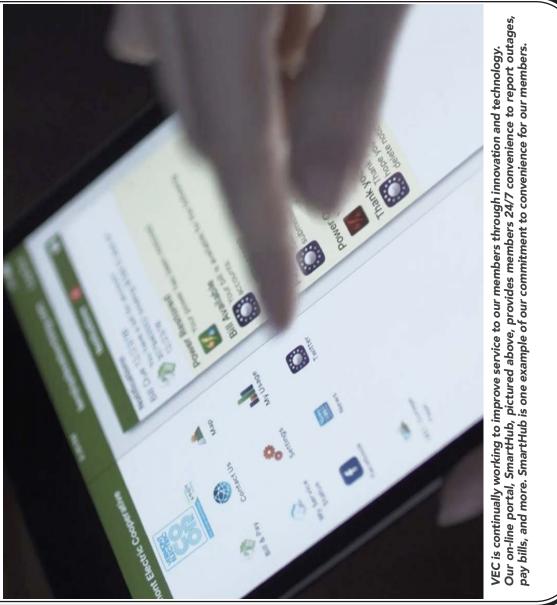
Vermont Electric Co-op 42 Wescom Road Johnson, VT 05656 1-800-832-2667 Agency of Agriculture
Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt
116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602
1-802-828-2431

Department of Public Service
Consumer Affairs & Public Information
112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620
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, 2022.

	- ,,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List			
Name		Town/City of Affected Property	
Street Address		Home Phone Number	
Town		Work Phone Number	
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number? Yes No (circle one)	
Electric Utility Account Number		Best time to contact you	
Affected Property:	Year-Round Residence Summer Resi	dence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land	
		Other	
(Circle all that apply)			
Line/Pole Identification	1:		
Utility Initials		Pole Numbers	
		termine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification. AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15 TH , 2022	







Vermont Electric Cooperative Inc. 42 Wescom Rd. Johnson, VT 05656

PRSRT STD US Postage **PAID** Permit #1 N. Haverhill, NH

Inside Winter 2022 Co-op Life

CEO Updatepg. 1
Brunner to Lead VEC Innovation Effortspg. 1
A Good Time for Co-op Community Solar?pg. 2
Would You Like to Serve on the Board of Directors?pg. 3
Charge it Up!pg. 3
VEC Works with CUDs to Support Broadband Deployment pg. 4
Car-pole Accidents in VEC Territory on the Risepg. 5
Celebrating Over a Century of Combined Experience at VEC pg. 6
Herbicide Noticepg. 7

CO-OP LIFE is published quarterly by Vermont Electric Cooperative 42 Wescom Road, Johnson, VT 05656 • 802-635-2331 • Toll Free: 1-800-VEC-COOP www.vermontelectric.coop

Vermont Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

District 1 Don Worth 802-723-6532 P.O. Box 450, Island Pond, VT 05846 district1@vermontelectric.coop

John Ward 802-334-6022 District 2 145 Mt. Vernon St, Newport, VT 05855 district2@vermontelectric.coop

Carol Maroni 802-586-7758 District 3 2426 Collinsville Rd, Craftsbury, VT 05826 district3@vermontelectric.coop

District 4 Mark Woodward 802-730-6767 110 Woodward Rd, Johnson, VT 05656 district4@vermontelectric.coop

Charlie Van Winkle 802-598-0128 District 5 88 Corbett Rd, Underhill, VT 05489 district5@vermontelectric.coop

Paul Lambert 802-310-2740 1758 Reynolds Rd, Georgia, VT 05478

District 7 Rich Goggin 508-439-9166 30 Whipple Rd, South Hero, VT 05486 $district \dot{\vec{7}} @ vermontel ectric.coop$

Tom Bailey 802-766-2647 Eastern Zone Directors at large P.O. Box 114, Derby, VT 05829 eastzone2@vermontelectric.coop

> George Lague 802-766-2456 308 Boulder Drive, Derby, VT 05829 eastzone1@vermontelectric.coop

district6@vermontelectric.coop

Jody Dunklee 802-356-6052 Western Zone 6 Wilcox Rd, Fairfax, VT 05454 Directors at large westzone1@vermontelectric.coop

> Ken Hoeppner 802-644-5771 1685 VT Route 108N, Jeffersonville, VT 05464 westzone2@vermontelectric.coop

Bonnie Pratt 617-833-5746 164 White Birch Dr, Cambridge, VT 05444 westzone3@vermontelectric.coop