

Why is structure maintenance important?

The safety and reliability of Vermont's electric transmission system depends on effective maintenance of VELCO's structures to ensure they can continue to serve Vermont's energy needs and safely withstand harsh weather. We must periodically replace or upgrade aging and damaged infrastructure to continue to deliver the safe and reliable power that is essential to our homes, businesses, and communities.



During Replacement

Transferring conductors to the new poles.



During Restoration

The ground has been restored to grade with seed and mulch. Access matting removal in progress.

What to expect where VELCO does maintenance

This brochure explains what to expect if one or more of VELCO poles or structures located on your property needs to be replaced or if we need to access one of our lines using a route through your property. Generally, our work includes the following steps, which are described in more detail in this brochure.

Typical Work Sequence

1. Initial field review
2. Landowner outreach
3. Access
4. Line maintenance
5. Restoration and clean-up



What to expect when VELCO replaces a pole on your property

VELCO Work Location

Line #: _____ Str. # _____

Street Address

VELCO Representative

Contact Information

vermont electric power company

Typical pole replacement effort

Initial Field Review

1 Initial field review is conducted by a group of VELCO personnel who access the right of way by ATV or other vehicles. The goal is to assess pole condition and access, and to identify and flag areas of concern, including environmental resources.

Landowner Outreach

2 We strive to be in close communication with landowners as part of our structure replacement efforts. Once we've completed an initial field review, we contact landowners to describe our work plans. We value the goodwill of our neighbors, and encourage you to call us should you have any questions or concerns.

How to contact VELCO

Mail: 366 Pinnacle Ridge Road, Rutland, VT 05701
Phone: 802.772.3769
Email: rightofway@velco.com
Online: <http://www.velco.com/contact-row>



Stabilized work area following structure replacement.

Access

3 Where possible, VELCO uses existing routes, such as farm roads, to access structures. In some cases, we may need to establish new routes. New routes may include widening or trimming vegetation, and placing stone or wooden construction mats. Mats are used to minimize disturbance in sensitive resource areas, such as wetlands and archaeological sites.



Access route matting through a wetland.



Stone construction access route.

We construct level equipment pads around the base of structure replacements to safely set up heavy equipment needed to perform the replacement work. Depending on the area or terrain, and whether the location is residential, rural or agricultural, equipment pads may be restored back to original grade or remain level to facilitate future maintenance work.

Line Construction

4 Once access routes and crane pads are established, additional preparation is needed before the structures can be replaced. This includes drilling or excavating new holes for the replacement poles, delivery of materials, and installation of anchors and grounding. Then the line crew installs the new poles and framing, and dismantles the old structure.



Rock drilling for new pole installation.

Restoration

5 The final stage of structure replacement consists of cleaning up construction debris, removing matting, and restoring disturbed areas, including re-grading and restabilization (seed, mulch, etc.). VELCO works closely with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and follows best management practices for working in and restoring rights of way.



Revegetated work site.