

Thank you for reaching out regarding your preference to decline the use of herbicide. BARC has made note of this request and chemical treatment will not be used at the location you provided.

As we communicated, brush or woody plants within the rights of way (ROW) present the greatest challenge to BARC as both the cause of outages and as obstacles to prompt repairs. Tree and brush related outages account for over half of the total outage hours experienced by BARC members because these types of outages are typically longer in duration.

BARC does have a ROW policy in place and respects the rights of property owners. As part of this policy, BARC will not use chemicals in or on crops, lawns, gardens, homes, ponds, flowing streams, or discernible pastureland presently being grazed. Any ROW meeting these criteria will be maintained using mechanical means only.

If the ROW on your property does not meet the criteria above, BARC has two options to ensure the Cooperative is properly maintaining its ROW and ensuring reliability of electric service while respecting your request. By choosing to not have chemicals used in the ROW for your address, you can: 1) maintain the Rights of Way yourself; **or** 2) reimburse the Cooperative for the cost of mechanical maintenance.

As your electric utility, BARC has a standard to meet to ensure maintained and safe ROWs. Please note that should you fail to maintain the ROW to BARC's satisfaction or fail to reimburse the Cooperative for its cost, BARC will be permitted to spray herbicide on its ROW at its own discretion. Your area will be planned according to our preventative maintenance schedule. You will be notified prior to any preventative mechanical or chemical ROW maintenance on your property. If the planner determines that chemicals are the best option, we will discuss how you would like to handle it at that time. For now, your property will be omitted from the current year's spray program.

Any part of your property that is crop, lawn, garden, home, pond, flowing stream, or discernible pasture will be planned for mechanical preventative maintenance. We will notify you of any work that may be necessary at that time. If our forestry planner determines that chemicals are needed on any part of your property, we will reach out to discuss how you'd prefer to keep the ROW maintained. For now, our herbicide contractor will not access your property during this year's spray program.