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**ATTACHMENT 1**

**From:** Laurin Easthom [laurineasthom@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, September 21, 2007 7:17 PM

**To:** Roger Stancil

**Cc:** Kevin Foy; Sally Greene; Bill Strom; Bill Thorpe; Cam Hill; Jim Ward; Edward C. Harrison; Mark Kleinschmidt

**Subject:** duke energy and trees

Hi Roger,

I have been very curious about the herbicide that Duke Energy has been using to destroy trees under power transmission lines in town. I frankly don't like the practice, as large swathes of land are painted rusty brown along very visible areas in town, and even in neighbors' back yards. I live in a neighborhood with a power easement in the back, and I guess I'm lucky that the trees back there haven't fallen prey to the rusty herbicide. But I'm wondering about all of those others in my neighborhood, and other neighborhoods (Parkside etc) that have unsightly dead rusty trees killed by herbicide next to their land. You can also witness this along Whitfield Road just outside town limit, where the whole side of the road has browned pines and hardwoods underneath the lines.

My questions to you: 1. what is the nature of this herbicide? The Town has been very careful in its own use of herbicide on its soccer fields and rights of way, etc.

because of toxic runoff to our waterways and general health concerns. How harmful is it? How close is too close to neighbors' yards for such a large amount to be applied in order to kill so many trees?

2. Will Duke Energy come and then cut down the trees they have used herbicide on? Why not just prune them or cut them? How many applications of herbicide are necessary over the course of years? is once enough?

3. Who now is our town government representative (it used to be Scott Gardner)? I'd love to know the answers to these questions and am concerned about this herbicide practice.

I am aware that now federal law requires that these trees be taken care of underneath the lines. But the **methods** these companies choose may have an impact on our visual quality of life and our health.

Thanks for thinking about this.

Laurin

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