



Mayor of Providence

Angel Taveras

October 22, 2013

Nicholas Ucci, Coordinator  
Energy Facility Siting Board  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Mr. Ucci:

The City of Providence continues to support the Underground Alignment of the E-183 Line from the Providence River at India Point Park to East Providence. However, the City has raised and will continue to pursue concerns about the escalating costs of the project, given the passage of nearly a decade since the original settlement of the matter.

In the intervening years, National Grid's consultants on the directional drilling process have raised significant issues about the feasibility of the project. In order to ascertain whether those issues have merit, the cities of Providence and East Providence will have to invest essentially all of the funds flowing from the merger of National Grid and Southern Union, and earmarked for the E-183 underground initiative through legislative action by the General Assembly as well as the respective City Councils, in addition to other funds set aside or otherwise allocated by the Department of Transportation, the Independent System Operator, and other granting entities.

Before undertaking this irrevocable step, the City believes it is reasonable to require three things of National Grid:

- to provide a construction grade estimate of the probable costs of this project in 2013 dollars;
- to provide a binding project schedule that includes concurrent analysis of alternative alignments; and
- for National Grid to fund a peer review of the construction grade estimate and alternative alignments from the monies previously set aside for this project.

I reiterate my 2011 commitment for the City to be an active partner in moving the process forward. However, I believe that in order to initiate this project we require a clear understanding of the projected costs and project schedule, the impact that cost may have on ratepayers, as well as a full assessment of the impacts that this multi-year infrastructure project would have on the affected communities.

Sincerely,

  
Angel Taveras  
Mayor

City of Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1789  
Phone (401) 421-7740 Fax (401) 274-8240