



Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097
TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov

March 5, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Ucci,

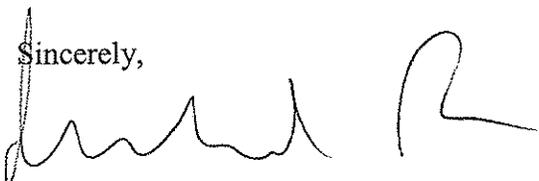
This letter is in response to the Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board request for the RI Department of Health to review the National Grid Interstate Reliability Project (North Smithfield and Burriville) and to "...render an informational advisory opinion on the potential public health concerns relating to biological responses to power frequency electric and magnetic fields associated with the operation of the Project. In particular, it should review and comment on the report from Exponent (Appendix J to ER)."

Appendix J has clearly defined the public health concerns of this project, and presents a lucid and credible review of the literature on this topic.

The National Grid Environmental Report – Volume 1 provides data on pre- and post-construction EMF (electromagnetic field) levels, decreasing in some areas and increasing in others. In general, this project will result in a decrease in magnetic field strength in those areas with the highest magnetic fields at the right-of-way. Members of the public with property that abuts this project are those most likely to have concerns about EMF exposures. They can request that National Grid measure the magnetic field strength at their property.

National Grid has been responsive to questions about possible alternative configurations that would lead to reductions in magnetic field strength at the right-of-way. All suggested alternatives include significant cost burdens and time delays to the project, failing to meet the requirements of being no- or low-cost options.

Thank you for providing the RI Department of Health with the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Questions can be directed to Robert Vanderslice, PhD, Healthy Homes and Environment Team Lead, either by phone (401-222-7766) or email (Robert.Vanderslice@health.ri.gov).

Sincerely,


Michael Fine, MD
Director