

Chronology of Campaign To Bury Providence/E. Providence Waterfront Power Lines

2002

April: After Friends of India Point Park (FIPP) hires utilities consultant Richard Gross, Narragansett Electric confers with him about our urging the wires be buried.

2003

Feb: **Paul Roberti**, Assist. AG for public utilities, responds to FIPP's tour of power lines for public officials.

June 11: Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) **hearing** in Fox Pt. receives community testimony on burial. FIPP's statement is at www.friendsofindiapointpark.org/projects_power_efs.html.

March-Dec: **50 letters of support** collected by FIPP from 35 city & state organizations, Lt. Gov. Fogarty, AG Lynch, Mayor Cicilline, E. Prov & Prov. City Councils, State Reps, and a joint letter from Presidents of Brown, RISD & Johnson & Wales. www.friendsofindiapointpark.org/projects_power_support.html

Dec. 16: **PUC hearing** on burial includes community testimony.

2004

May 25: **Settlement Agreement** approved by EFSB and signed by Narr. Elec., Prov., E. Prov & AG, provides for burial if the AG and others can secure the funding.

Late June: **General Assembly** passes bill that (1) directs PUC to permit Prov & E. Prov to forego refund and permit use of **\$2M from Narr. Elec. Storm fund**, (2) requires Narr. Elec. to apply for ISO regional funding, and (3) authorizes Narr. Elec. to proceed with burial.

July 1: **Gov. Carcieri** confirms his commitment of \$2.5M in RIDOT funds for burial, which he calls "a critical part of our combined efforts to redevelop the Providence and East Providence waterfronts."

November: Narr. Electric designates **\$5.8M in refund moneys for burial**.

2005

Aug. 1: **Sen. Chafee obtains \$2.5M** in FY05 federal earmark funds for burial. **RIDOT Dir. Capaldi** commits an additional \$200K in RIDOT funds for burial, for a total of **\$2.7M from RIDOT**.

2006

Feb. 15: **ISO commits \$1.5M** from the New England Regional grid for burial project.

March: Cooperative Funding Agreement drafted by Narr. Elec. lists the sources of \$14.475M for burial.

2007

Jan 4: Narr. Elec. **estimates cost of burial** at \$18.310M, not including acquisition of Providence parcel.

2008

June: **General Assembly** passes bill authorizing Narr. Elec. to raise the incremental cost for burial from Prov & E. Prov ratepayers, if approved by their City Councils.

Aug 19 & Nov. 17: **E. Prov & Prov City Councils**, respectively, approve their ratepayers paying incremental cost.

2009

Feb 6 meeting: L. Zerva confirms **RIDOT commitment of \$5.2M** for burial. Roberti: ISO could contribute more.

2011

March 13 & April 27: M. Mitchell **confirms RIDOT commitment of \$5.2M** for burial at EFSB status conferences, reiterating his commitment at 7/14/10 EFSB status conference.

July: National Grid drafts **revised funding agreement**, which the parties agree to sign except E. Prov. because of the outstanding issues of re-aligning Phillipsdale Tap, acquiring E. Prov. waterfront parcel, and legal fees.

March & Aug: **Letters of support** for burial sent to EFSB by Mayor Taveras, Save the Bay, elected representatives.

2012-16

Letters of support for burial from Presidents of Brown, RISD & Johnson & Wales, RI Trades Council, businesses.

Oct. '14: Nat'l Grid consultant completes engineering & feasibility studies, releases cost estimate of **\$33.9M**.

June 16, '15: Nat'l Grid reports that the \$5.8M refund set aside in 2004 has accrued **\$3.2M in interest** through 5/15.

Sept. 3, '15: Nat'l Grid consultant, Power Engineers, concludes the proposed project "is aligned with standard industry practice and **is constructible.**" (bold added)

Oct. '16: Nat'l Grid and E. Prov. submit motion to re-align wires over the Seekonk overhead; Providence objects.

Petition: more than 2,100 people from all of RI's 39 towns have signed petition urging burial; 400 wrote comments.