

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

## 2002

April: After Narragansett Electric (now National Grid) fails to return multiple phone calls from Friends of India Point Park (FIPP) about burying the waterfront power lines, FIPP hires utilities consultant Richard Gross whom Narr. Elec. spoke to about burying the lines.

## 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 testimony from **19 community members urging burial**. FIPP's statement is at [www.friendsofindiapointpark.org/bury-the-waterfront-powerlines/](http://www.friendsofindiapointpark.org/bury-the-waterfront-powerlines/).  
March-Dec: **50 letters of support** collected by FIPP from 35 citizens groups, AG Lynch, Mayor Cicilline, E. Prov & Prov. City Councils, State Reps, and a joint letter from Presidents of Brown, RISD & JWU.  
Dec. 16: Public Utilities Commission (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: (1) PUC is directed to permit Prov & E. Prov to forego a refund and to permit use of **\$2M** from Narr. Elec. **Storm fund** for burial, (2) Narr. Elec. is "required to apply" to ISO for regional grid funding for the waterfront lines, and (3) Narr. Elec. is "**authorized 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. Elect. designates **\$5.8M in refund moneys** for burial.

## 2005

Aug. 1: Sen. Lincoln 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 waterfront lines that could pay for burial.  
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 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 (RIDOT funds and federal earmark) 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 outstanding issues of legal fees, re-aligning Phillipsdale Tap, & acquiring E. Prov. land for transition station.  
March & Aug: Letters of support for burial sent to EFSB by Mayor Taveras, Save the Bay, elected representatives.

## 2012-22

**Letters of support** for burial from Presidents of Brown, RISD & JWU, RI Trades Council, business leaders.  
Sept. 3, '15: Nat'l Grid-approved consultant, Power Engineers, concludes the proposed project "is aligned with standard industry practice and **is constructible.**" (bold added). It estimates burial cost at **\$33.9M**.  
Oct. 12, '16: Nat'l Grid and E. Prov. move to relocate wires overhead above Seekonk pedestrian bridge. Prov. objects.  
April 7, '17: Nat'l Grid: the \$5.8M refund set aside in 2004 has accrued **\$3.6M in interest through 2/17**.  
Jan. 17, '18: EFSB orders power lines re-aligned overhead above Seekonk River pedestrian bridge.  
Aug. 23, '18: Prov, FIPP & two waterfront businesses appeal to RI Supreme Ct., which orders mediation, 3/11/19.  
Feb. 1, '22: **RI Supreme Ct. hearing** on power lines issue. Total burial funds raised is more than **\$18 million**.  
**Petition:** more than **2,100 people** sign petition urging burial; 400 write comments. **78 organizations** have urged burial.