

TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN

Township Hall, One Kings Highway
Middletown, NJ 07748-2594

GERARD P. SCHARFENBERGER, Ph.D.

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Committee Member



ANTHONY P. MERCANTANTE, P.P., AICP
Township Administrator

HEIDI R. BRUNT, CMR, RMC/CMC
Township Clerk and Registrar

Tel: (732) 615-2000
Fax: (732) 957-9090

www.middletownnj.org

Organized December 14, 1667
"Pride in Middletown"

June 8, 2016

Dr. Francis Collins M.D., Ph.D., Director
National Institute of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Re: Middletown Township, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Collins:

I am writing to you in hopes that the National Institute of Health can assist my community in addressing an issue that has recently developed here and which has caused alarm amongst many residents. First allow me to introduce myself, I am Dr. Gerard Scharfenberger, Mayor of Middletown Township, New Jersey. Middletown is a community of nearly 70,000 residents, located along the Jersey Shore, approximately 40 miles south of New York City. Recently, a project has been proposed by First Energy Corporation of Ohio, the owners of Jersey Central Power and Light Company and one of three major electric utilities that serve this state. The proposed project includes running new 203kV power lines on above ground poles along an existing New Jersey Transit rail corridor. The average pole height would be about 140'. The total length would be about 10 miles and would traverse four other municipalities, with the majority running through Middletown Township.

The corridor is bordered for much of its length by single-family residential dwellings, particularly here in Middletown. As you can imagine such a project is of great concern for our residents, especially those who live closest to the rail corridor. One of the major concerns residents have is regarding the possible health effects of living near the high voltage lines associated with the project. There is a great deal of information available online and much concern in people's minds about whether there are or are not health risks associated with such a project. It is not clear if much of this information is current or even accurate and does little to address their concerns.

Many Neighborhoods. One Middletown!

Belford ○ Chapel Hill ○ Fairview ○ Harmony ○ Leonardo ○ Lincroft ○ Locust ○ Middletown Village
Monmouth Hills ○ Navesink ○ New Monmouth ○ North Middletown ○ Nut Swamp ○ Oak Hill ○ Port Monmouth ○ River Plaza

Therefore, on behalf of the entire Middletown Township governing body, I am requesting that the National Institute of Health provide us with the latest data, information, reports and studies on this topic so that we can adequately and accurately address some of the concerns of the community. Also, please let us know if there are other national or even international health-related organizations that might have current data on this subject. In addition to the above address, I can be reached by phone at (732) 615-2024.

As this matter is somewhat urgent, your earliest response would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gerard P. Scharfenberger, Ph.D.
Mayor

cc: Township Committee
Township Attorney

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