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Mark S. Ells, Barnstable Town Manager
367 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601

February 5, 2026

Dear Manager Ells:

On behalf of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, I want to provide a response to your most recent communication from January 11, 2026, which included an attachment from Save Greater Dowses Beach (SGDB) describing their efforts to conduct readings of electromagnetic fields (EMF) at Covell's Beach, the neighboring parking lot to the beach, and at specified locations along a 5.3 mile-long duct bank housing two transmission lines delivering power to the electric grid from the Vineyard Wind offshore wind project.

The attachment you provided was dated January 10, 2026, and contained a description of SGDB's six-month effort (from June 2025 to December 2025) to collect EMF readings at various locations at Covell's Beach, in the parking lot adjacent to the beach, and at specific locations along nearby roadways under which the transmission lines referenced above are located. While the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) cannot independently verify the accuracy of the readings taken, we take this opportunity to provide our evaluation of the findings presented in the attachment from SGDB.

In the 325 readings that SGDB states that it has taken on Covell’s Beach itself over the six-month period, the highest EMF reading registered was 7.5 milligauss (“mG”), recorded at the landward edge of the beach on August 31, 2025. In the middle of the beach, the highest EMF reading registered was 2.9 mG on October 19, 2025. These values are notably lower than the modeled EMF values presented by Vineyard Wind in the facility’s EFSB proceeding. Specifically, in that proceeding, the electromagnetic fields from the transmission lines at Covell’s Beach were modeled to be no more than 3.6 mG in the middle of the beach and 21.1 mG by the landward edge of the beach, adjacent to the paved parking area.¹ For reference, typical baseline magnetic fields inside residences range from 0.5-5.0 mG. Accordingly, the readings taken on the beach, where people are more likely to congregate for extended periods of time, are roughly at or below levels that an average person might be exposed to at any time throughout the course of a given day and therefore, EEA remains confident that the transmission lines pose no threat to public health or safety for beachgoers.

With respect to the readings taken in the parking lot on top of the splicing vault where the cables are converted to onshore transmission lines and along the duct bank housing the transmission lines, the EMF readings are predictably higher. In the case of the splicing vault, this represents the closest that any member of the public can get to the transmission lines themselves. The highest reading taken at that location was 231.1 mG, taken at ground level on December 21, 2025. Notably, the reading taken at the same spot on the same day just one meter above ground level was 72.9 mG, a 68.5% reduction from the reading taken at ground level. This is consistent with how EMF is known to work, as EMF levels rapidly dissipate as one moves even just a short distance away from its source.

Presumably, members of the public are unlikely to spend all day sitting on top of the splicing vault or the duct banks. As a result, they are unlikely to be exposed to these levels of EMF for longer than a very brief period of time as they pass by these areas. Regardless, even if someone were to spend an extended period of time in these specific locations, the EMF levels reported by SGDB are still approximately 10-100 times lower than the 2,000 mG exposure limit recommended by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.² The World Health Organization has concluded that magnetic field exposures below these limits “do not appear to have any known consequence on health.”³

In summary, while we cannot independently verify the readings reported by SGDB, what they have reported to you is consistent with the results we would expect to see and demonstrates that

¹ EFSB 17-05/D.P.U. 18-18/18-19, at 76 (2019).

² Note that this recommended limit is intended to be applied to situations where there is continuous, long-term exposure and is not as relevant for short duration exposure to EMF, such as one might experience while passing by the splicing vault or duct banks near Covell’s Beach.

³ EFSB 20-01/D.P.U. 20-56/20-57, at 84, 89 (noting that the Project’s range of modeled magnetic fields for the Offshore Export Cables, at either landfall site, are comparable to values that the EFSB has previously approved in numerous proceedings, and far below magnetic field safety threshold established by ICNIRP and referenced by the WHO).

as we previously stated in a letter to you dated June 28, 2024, the subterranean transmission lines at Covell's Beach pose no risk to public health or safety for beachgoers in Barnstable.

Thank you for your correspondence and the ability to provide feedback on this important matter. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Judge". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Judge
Undersecretary of Energy
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Cc:

Senator Julian Cyr
Representative Kip A. Diggs
Representative Steven Xiarhos
Karen Nober, Barnstable Town Attorney