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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the Energy Facility Siting regulations. I am a member of Mothers Out Front, and as such have been an active supporter of reforms that acknowledge and incorporate the needs of those impacted.

As the Commonwealth moves towards electrification of all sectors, it is imperative that siting of energy facilities be expedited, but not at the expense of the communities and environs that are affected. Single consolidated permitting must require consideration of at least two types of stakeholders: communities (both urban and rural) already burdened with extra-ordinary assaults on their public health and welfare, AND the natural lands and forests that quietly contribute to the ecology and environmental health of our Commonwealth.

As an active supporter of siting reform for several years, I am particularly pleased with the recognition that siting of new infrastructure must now consider the cumulative impact of such projects on the proposed site and its residents.

Furthermore, I was pleased to see that changes to a communities' environment must now be made in consultation with said communities, whether urban or rural, from the very beginning. Remedial actions of any project must be guided by those most affected by it.

Reforms to the regulations must facilitate both large-scale utility sponsored projects and smaller ones as well. And all projects must be environmentally responsible, protecting both the natural environment and the human communities that will be impacted by said projects. Only then can we move into a just, equitable and sustainable future.

Thank-you for your work to make this possible.

Sincerely yours,

Sue Swanson