

TO: Department of Energy – ATTN: Treena V. Garrett

FROM: COL (Ret) Kevin R. Riedler  
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SUBJECT: Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on Ensuring the Continued Security of the United States Critical Electric Infrastructure – 4/22/2021

Ms. Garrett (et al),

I am writing both in support of DOE's efforts to ensure continued security of the nation's electrical infrastructure, and retaining Executive Order 13920 "Securing the U.S. Bulk Power System" as a means of strengthening those efforts.

I had the privilege of serving our nation as an Army officer for over thirty years. During part of that service, in 2003 I was sent by Secretary Rumsfeld to Iraq to work with the Coalition Provisional Authority, headquartered in Baghdad, where I was tasked with developing that nation's electrical infrastructure security plan and training their fledgling "Electrical Power Security Services". To say the least, securing their grid was a challenge as even a goodly number of Iraqis were bent on tearing down the system – they wanted to melt down the copper transmission lines and sell the metal.

During my final assignment I was stationed back in the Pentagon and placed in charge of the Joint Staff J5 Homeland Division. Our task was simple – develop plans and policy for the President (then Barrack Obama) and for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on optimal ways of utilizing military assets to help defend the homeland. One of many issues we worked, in conjunction with representatives from all major government agencies who met bi-weekly at the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building (coordinated by the National Security Council), was the necessity and importance of maintaining a secure electrical grid throughout the nation.

In my retired status, I continue to volunteer on a national task force bent on maintaining electrical infrastructure security and hardening the grid. To say the least, I have devoted much of my life to this subject.

Doing this (maintaining grid security) is more than a bipartisan issue – it is maintaining life as we know it in our nation. While many in the current administration disagree with much done by the previous one, Executive Order (EO) 13920 was exceptional in outlining efforts that rise above those of any party. It would be criminal to further delay their implementation with political squabbling. My greatest hope is that DOE will retain the items in the EO and help strengthen our nation's grid. Literally, our lives depend upon it.

Sincerely,



Kevin R. Riedler  
Colonel (Retired), US Army