DAVISTOWN MUSEUM
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Dear Editor:

We are now entering a period of increased solar storm activity, which could result in a potentially disastrous impact on our electric power grid, possibly lasting for a period of months or even years. Such a disruption would impact all digital networks, including transportation and communication, cell phones, hospitals, water and sewage supplies, and most emergency response equipment.

Recent studies by Homeland Security, the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK), and many others focus on the vulnerability of the major transformers within the electric power grid to solar storms. A related major safety issue is the continued operation of nuclear power plant cooling systems that will be dependent on long term use of backup generators in the case of total electric grid failure and a possible lack of generator fuel. Reactors, including the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP) in Plymouth, MA and Vermont Yankee in Vernon, VT, that have the General Electric Mark I plant design used at Fukushima Daiichi are especially at risk due to the unsafe location of their spent fuel pools. A synopsis of the relationship between solar storm triggered electrical grid failure and potential nuclear power plant meltdowns is available at www.davistownmuseum.org.

All families need to be aware of the growing possibility of the long term disruption of our electric power grid due to a severe solar storm and the cascade of unfortunate impacts that would follow.

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