



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey

November 15, 2004

Brad Parker
First Selectman
P.O. Box K
East Haddam, CT 06423

Dear Selectman Parker:

Connecticut experiences small earthquakes several times per year. None of the historic earthquakes has been connected to any mapped fault. A search of geological maps in the Geological and Natural History Survey library did not turn up any indication of a fault in the area of North Moodus Road or anywhere near the site of the proposed new school. There may be some confusion over faults because of the Moodus noises, which are small earthquakes. The Weston Observatory at Boston College used to keep a seismograph in north Moodus that indicated some of the Moodus noises appeared to originate from that area, but those were tiny earthquakes and none were traced to any known fault. There was also a deep exploratory hole drilled on Sillmanville Road that intersected the Honey Hill Fault at depth. That fault is several hundred million years old and has not moved in historic times. It reaches the surface south of East Haddam and is not suspected of causing the Moodus noises.

Although most of Connecticut experiences earthquakes, none in historic times has caused any damage other than possibly knocking down a few loosely-cemented stone walls and/or chimneys in colonial times. Janet Radway Stone, a geologist with the US Geological Survey who grew up on North Moodus Road and is well aware of the Moodus noises and the geology of the area, concurs with me that a damaging earthquake anywhere in Connecticut is very unlikely.

Please feel free to contact me again with any questions.

Sincerely,

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