Dear Dr. Steindel,

Thank you for your time in editing our ms.  Listed below are answers to your concerns and we have accordingly revised our ms.  The changes in the revision are shown in red.

Sincerely,

Xiaohua Mao

1. Figure 1: Where do the siRNA-PEI-SPION complexes go in the gel, then? Also, what do you mean by a ‘value of 0’-the Fe-siRNA ratio?

Authors’ response: The siRNA band can be either retarded or not detectable upon binding to PEI-SPIONs (stated in protocol 2.6).  The latter case reflects a strong binding ability of PEI-SPIONs with siRNA, which results in an exclusion of EB to siRNA during staining. The explanation is now given in the legend to figure 1. Value of 0 has been defined in the legend.

1. Figure 2: What is M2 and PE-H?

Authors’ response: They have been defined in the legend to figure 2.

1. Figure 3: What are the percentages here?

Authors’ response: Now defined in the legend to figure 3.