

A. INTRODUCTION

The term “growth-inducing aspects” generally refers to the long-term secondary impacts of a proposed project that trigger further development in areas outside of the project area that would not have such development without the proposed project. Secondary impacts may include growth of physical development, population increases in the surrounding community, increases in economic growth, and/or social or cultural expansion. Projects that add substantial new land use, new residents, or new employment could induce additional development of a similar kind or of support uses (e.g., stores to serve new residential uses). Actions that introduce or greatly expand infrastructure capacity (e.g., sewers, central water supply) might also induce growth.

B. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

LIPA is proposing to construct a new 68 kilovolt electrical transmission line that would traverse the eastern portion of the Town of Southampton, within the hamlets of Tuckahoe, North Sea, Water Mill, and Bridgehampton, as well as the Incorporated Village of Southampton. The proposed transmission line would connect the existing Southampton Substation with the Bridgehampton Substation. Four alternative routes are considered in this EIS, and each of the routes would have the same effect on the Growth Inducing Aspects of the Proposed Action. In addition, the Proposed Action would upgrade and expand the existing Bridgehampton Substation on the same LIPA-owned parcel as the existing substation to accommodate the new transmission line.

Historically, LIPA has constructed transmission lines and substations similar to the proposed project throughout Long Island to respond to growing energy demand. As discussed in more detail in Chapter 2, “Land Use and Community Character,” it is expected that the full-time residential population, and development overall, will increase in the study area and within the entire East End, with or without the Proposed Action. This growth will undoubtedly create an additional demand on infrastructure, notably energy supply. LIPA has estimated that the current energy network will not be able to accommodate this growth, and therefore is proposing this project to meet the expected future demand. As such, the Proposed Action would not “induce” new growth in the study area. Rather, the new infrastructure would serve to support those new uses that are expected to occur in the study area in the future with or without the proposed project. Moreover, the level of future development in the study area is controlled by local municipal authorities under the current and any future zoning.

The development of the Southampton to Bridgehampton Transmission Line Project is not expected to significantly increase the development growth of the area. The proposed project is part of LIPA’s overall long range expansion plans to meet the East End demands and to reduce dependence on local generation. Further, the need for the project has been demonstrated in various sections of this EIS, including Chapter 1, “Project Description.” *