

State Environmental Quality Review
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project Number: _____

Date: December 17, 2009

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), as lead agency for purposes of SEQRA, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant environmental impact and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Long Island Solar Farm Project

SEQR Status: Type 1 ___
Unlisted ___
Type II emergency action ___

Conditioned Negative Declaration: Yes
 No

Description of Action:

The proposed action involves the construction and operation by Long Island Solar Project LLC, an affiliate of BP Solar International Inc. (BP Solar), of an approximately 32 megawatt (MW)¹ solar photovoltaic (PV) project on the grounds of the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in Upton, New York. Pursuant to a power purchase agreement that LIPA is considering entering into with BP Solar, power from this project would then be sold to LIPA for use in the LIPA service area, and would help LIPA to meet Long Island's energy needs, air emission reduction targets, and New York State's renewable energy goals. A short transmission line would also be constructed to connect the LIPA dedicated solar arrays to the existing LIPA substation known as 8ER located directly offsite of the BNL property. Minor modifications to that substation will also be made, which will occur entirely within the substation footprint. The proposed action also involves a commitment to establish a Natural Resources Benefit program.

¹ This is 32 MW alternating current which is equivalent to 37 megawatts direct current.

Location:

The Long Island Solar Farm Project will be located on federal government property within the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory in the hamlet of Upton, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, Long Island. The LIPA substation is located immediately adjacent to the BNL property line next to the Long Island Railroad tracks.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

A detailed Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed by the Department of Energy, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, in December 2009. Based on this EA and the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) prepared by LIPA for SEQRA purposes, the LIPA Board of Trustees made a determination of significance on December 17, 2009. The Environmental Review Record consisting of the EA and EAF analyzed potential environmental impacts of the project related to ecology, water resources, land use, demography, environmental justice, socioeconomic factors, transportation, cultural resources, air quality, climate, visual quality, noise, industrial safety and occupational health, radiological characteristics, natural hazards, intentional destructive acts, utilities, waste management and pollution prevention, commitment of resources, decommissioning and restoration, electric and magnetic fields, cumulative impacts, and alternatives and found that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed project in any such areas. Based upon the Environmental Review Record, LIPA has determined that the proposed project would not have any significant adverse impact on the environment and, accordingly, that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed project. A full statement of the reasons supporting LIPA's determination that no significant adverse environmental impacts would result from the proposed project is set forth in the attached Environmental Review Record consisting of the EA and EAF.

For Further Information:

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