## State Environmental Quality Review **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project: Incinerator Road Underground to Overhead Conversion Project (the "Proposed

Action")

Date: March 21, 2019

This notice is issued in accordance with Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 21 NYCRR LXXXI 10052.

The Long Island Power Authority ("Authority") has determined, based on information provided by PSEG Long Island that the Proposed Action described below will not have a significant adverse impact of the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Incinerator Road Underground to Overhead Conversion Project

**Location:** Incinerator Road, Hamlet of Inwood, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New

York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

## **Proposed Action Description:**

The Proposed Action involves the abandonment of the vast majority of an underground distribution cable that currently services the Nassau County Sanitary Pump Station and replacing it with an overhead line utilizing ten 45-foot wood distribution poles along the east side of Incinerator Road, in the Hamlet of Inwood, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York (the "Proposed Action"). The Proposed Action is being undertaken to support New York State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT's) Nassau Expressway/NY 878 project that will raise Incinerator Road by approximately three to five feet, and install a subsurface water channel below the roadway, preventing continued use of the existing underground cable, which is anticipated to be buried at a depth of approximately 3 feet under Incinerator Road. Further, the memorandum recommends that the Long Island Power Authority issue: (a) a proposed Negative Declaration in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and its implementing regulations and (b) the proposed statement required by the New York State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act ("Infrastructure Act").

## **Reasons Supporting This Determination:**

PSEG Long Island reviewed the Proposed Action's scope of work and undertook a SEQRA assessment to evaluate whether the Proposed Action has the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts. A Short Environmental Assessment Form ("SEAF") Parts 1, 2 and 3 were prepared. The SEAF evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. The work will be completed within previously disturbed areas and no environmentally sensitive areas will be disturbed as a result of the proposed construction. The SEAF evaluated the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use,

natural resources, visual resources and character of the area, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources. Key findings are outlined below:

The Proposed Action will result in the installation of ten 45-foot wood poles. As shown in the attached photo simulations, provided in Appendix A, the height of the new poles will be consistent with existing poles located in the area, which includes several 40 to 50 foot poles located to the east of Incinerator Road and along Nassau Expressway. In addition, the new poles will be significantly lower in height than a transmission lattice tower located slightly east of Incinerator Road, which is approximately 100 feet in height.

All ground disturbances will occur within Incinerator Road or along the eastern road shoulder of Incinerator Road, both of which have been previously disturbed during past construction activities. The level of disturbance associated with the Proposed Action will be minimal. No clearing of trees or significant vegetation will be required. Once construction is complete, all areas of ground disturbance will be restored.

The Proposed Action will not be completed within any NYSDEC-regulated wetland areas and therefore will not result in any disturbance to these areas. Portions of the Proposed Action will be completed within a NYSDEC-regulated Tidal Wetland Adjacent Area. The Proposed Action activities are authorized under the existing NYSDEC General Wetlands Permit (Servco/PSEG LI NYSDEC Permit No. 1-9901-00011/00028). In addition, as the project is located within a New York State coastal area, a coastal assessment form was submitted to the New York State Department of State for coastal consistency concurrence. Construction impacts within the coastal area will be minimized through implementation of appropriate soil erosion and control measures (i.e. silt fence).

Although the Proposed Action is located in an archaeological sensitive area, a consultation request was submitted by NYSDOT to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) for evaluating the potential impact from the Nassau Expressway/NY 878 project, which includes ground disturbance activities and encompasses Incinerator Road. NYSOPRHP indicated that they concurred with NYSDOT's finding that "the project will have no effect on properties listed or eligible for listing in the State and/or Nation Registers of Historic Places."

The Proposed Project will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife or ecological communities including rare, threatened or endangered species at either the individual or population level. The Proposed Action will not eliminate any high quality or valuable wildlife habitat and will not adversely affect the species that may occur in the area.

The Proposed Action will not cause any significant operational or construction impacts. Short-term traffic disruptions may occur; however, these impacts will be addressed via coordination with local municipalities for work within municipal roadways.

No potential for a significant adverse impact on the environment, flora, fauna, community character or human health has been identified as a result of the construction or operation of the Proposed Action. Based on the EAF and PSEGLI's recommendation according to the standards as set forth in SEQRA, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

## For Further Information:

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/s/ Rick Shansky

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Dated:March 21, 2019