

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

Project: Downtown Far Rockaway Utility Replacements and Installations
Environmental Review

Date: June 21, 2019

This notice is issued in accordance with Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act [SEQRA]) of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 21 NYCRR Part 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 on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Downtown Far Rockaway Utility Replacements and Installations
(the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Within the right-of-ways of Bayport Place, Beach 18th Street, Birdsall Avenue, Central Avenue, Dix Avenue, Foam Place, Hassock Street, Horton Avenue, Mott Avenue, Nameoke Avenue, Pinson Street and Redfern Avenue, Far Rockaway, Queens County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Description of Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action includes the removal, replacement or installation of distribution facilities in Far Rockaway, Queens County, New York. The Proposed Action will be completed along/within the following roadways: Bayport Place, Beach 18th Street, Birdsall Avenue, Central Avenue, Dix Avenue, Foam Place, Hassock Street, Horton Avenue, Mott Avenue, Nameoke Avenue, Pinson Street and Redfern Avenue. The approximate location of work for the Proposed Action is depicted on Figure 1. Photographs of existing site conditions within the Proposed Action area are provided in Appendix A.

The Proposed Action is being undertaken to facilitate the New York City Department of Design and Construction’s (NYCDDC’s) proposed sewer and water main work, which is being completed as part of the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT)

Downtown Far Rockaway Urban Design and Street Reconstruction Project. A City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) is currently being completed for this project, with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection serving as Lead Agency. Since the New York City Department of Environmental Protection is conducting an uncoordinated review, this SEQRA required to assess the environmental impacts of the electrical utility work, as described herein, and because the Long Island Power Authority was not included as an involved agency.

Due to the location of the NYCDDC's work, PSEG Long Island must remove and/or replace existing distribution facilities, and install new distribution facilities in order to accommodate the NYCDDC's construction areas. NYCDDC's work involves excavation activities within the roadways noted above. As PSEG Long Island distribution facilities currently exist aboveground and underground within and along these roadways, NYCDDC cannot complete their excavation activities without PSEG Long Island relocating these facilities. Further, as NYCDDC is utilizing various construction equipment within these roadways, adequate overhead clearance from existing overhead distribution lines must be provided. As a result, PSEG Long Island must either remove or replace and relocate existing overhead distribution facilities and service connections running parallel to, or crossing over many of these roadways. Relocation/replacement and installation of distribution facilities within the Proposed Action areas will allow electric service to be continuously provided to nearby customers throughout the duration of the NYCDDC's construction activities.

Specifically, the Proposed Action will consist of the following:

- A total of 12 wood poles ranging in height from 35 feet to 45 feet will be removed and 12 new poles ranging in height from 40 feet to 45 feet will replace these poles. Overhead conductor will also be removed and replaced as necessary at these locations. Pole replacements will be completed on the following streets: Central Avenue; Dix Avenue; at the corner of Foam Place and Beach 18th Street; Hassock Street; the corner of Nameoke Street and Bayport Place, Horton Avenue and; Redfern Avenue. These poles will be installed within 10 feet of their former locations, with the exception of two poles that will be replaced approximately 11 feet from their former locations. These pole replacements will be permanent.
- A total of 24 temporary new wood poles and associated overhead conductor, ranging in height from 35 feet to 45 feet will be installed on Bayport Place, Beach 22nd Street, Birdsall Avenue, Foam Place, Hassock Street, Mott Avenue and Nameoke Avenue. These poles will be installed for approximately 2 to 3 years during NYCDDC's construction activities. The existing overhead distribution lines and overhead distribution conductor service connections at these locations do not provide the necessary clearance for NYCDDC's construction activities. Installation of new poles along Hassock Street, Mott Avenue and Foam Place will result in utility poles located on both sides of the street, as existing utility infrastructure is already present on the other side of these roadways. However, these poles will be temporary and will be removed upon completion of

NYCDDC's construction activities. Existing utility poles along these roadways range from 40 feet to 45 feet.

- Installation of two new permanent 45-foot wood riser poles along Hassock Street and Nameoke Avenue. These riser poles are being installed so that overhead distribution conductor crossing the road can be removed, providing overhead clearance for NYCDDC's construction activities. Permanent underground distribution conductor will be installed between these two riser pole locations. These riser poles will allow for the underground distribution to connect to the existing overhead distribution circuits. Existing utility poles along these roadways range from 40 feet to 45 feet.
- Replacement and permanent relocation of existing underground distribution conduit, as follows:
 - Approximately 80 linear feet of existing underground distribution conduit will be replaced between manhole #14628 on Central Avenue and existing Pole #5 on Bayport Place.
 - Approximately 50 linear feet of existing underground conduit and associated manhole #30210 will be replaced and relocated from the roadway of Bayport Place to within the sidewalk of Bayport Place. The replacement conduit will be installed from manhole #30210 and will extend to the east, where it will be spliced to connect to a section of existing underground conduit.
 - Approximately 600 linear feet between manhole #30274 and manhole #30267 on Mott Avenue will be replaced and relocated from within the roadway to within the sidewalk. Two manholes will be abandoned in-place, one manhole will be replaced and relocated, one splice box will be removed, and one new manhole will be installed as part of this work.
- Installation of approximately 200 linear feet of new underground conduit between new riser Pole #1.5 on Hassock Street and new riser Pole #22.5, located on Nameoke Avenue.
- Removal of approximately 300 linear feet of overhead distribution conductor between Pole #1 on Hassock Street and Pole # 23 Nameoke Avenue.
- Installation of new overhead conductor, as follows:
 - Approximately 250 linear feet between Pole #3X and Pole #5X on Hassock Street.
 - Approximately 300 linear feet between Pole #3X and Pole #6X on Foam Place.

Due to the replacement, relocation and/or installation of poles throughout the Proposed Action area, overhead distribution conductor service connections to customers may be replaced or relocated, as necessary. In addition, the removal, replacement and/or

installation of various pole-top equipment will be completed throughout the Proposed Action area, as necessary.

The approximate locations of overhead and underground distribution conductor/conduit removals and installations are depicted on Figure 2. The approximate locations of pole replacements and installations are depicted on Figure 3. The total disturbance area for the Proposed Action (including trenching, manhole installation and pole replacement/installation) is approximately 0.15 acres.

Based on review of the Proposed Action's scope of work, a Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) Parts 1, 2 and 3 and related documents were prepared.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

PSEG Long Island, in conjunction with AKRF, Inc., 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.

The Proposed Action will involve underground and overhead improvements. The underground components will not result in any adverse visual impacts. The Proposed Action will allow service to be provided to customers through the duration of the NYCDDC's work without interruption. The temporary installation of new poles and overhead conductor along various roadways will result in the presence of utility poles and infrastructure along both sides of several roadways, including Bayport Place, Birdsall Avenue, Foam Place, Hassock Street, Mott Avenue and Nameoke Avenue. However, the height of the new poles (35 to 45 feet) will be consistent with existing poles (40 to 45 feet) located in these areas, and will be temporary in nature. As shown on the photosimulation provided in Appendix B, the presence of a double pole-line does not result in a significant adverse visual impact. Furthermore, the new pole installations will be removed upon the completion of NYCDDC's construction activities, which are anticipated to take approximately 2 to 3 years.

All ground disturbances (including trenching of conduit, manhole installation and replacement/installation of utility poles) will occur within the public roadway right-of-way and adjacent road shoulders and sidewalk areas, all of which have been previously disturbed during past construction activities. The area of disturbance associated with the Proposed Action will be minimal (approximately 0.15 acres). Tree removal will not be required; however, tree trimming may be necessary in order to meet PSEG Long Island distribution clearance requirements. Once construction is complete, all areas of ground disturbance will be restored to match pre-construction conditions.

The Proposed Action will not be completed within any state or federally-regulated wetlands or wetland adjacent areas; therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any impacts to these resources.

There are listed or eligible Federal or State Register of Historic Places sites, buildings or landmarks in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. Four of these resources are located along Mott Avenue, including the Trinity Chapel (State and National Register [S/NR]-listed), U.S. Post Office - Far Rockaway Branch (S/NR-listed), Mason Temple of Far Rockaway (Refuge Church of Christ) (S/NR-eligible) and NYPD 101st Precinct (S/NR-eligible). Construction activities along Mott Avenue near these four resources will involve installation of two utility poles and associated overhead conductor; however, these activities will not be located directly in front of these resources. As such, and given that utility infrastructure currently exists immediately in front of these resources, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in any adverse impacts to these resources. In addition, Engine Company 264 and 328/Hook and Ladder 134 (S/NR-eligible) is located on Central Avenue, between Mott Avenue and Foam Place. However, no construction activities will be completed in close proximity to this resource. The Proposed Action is located within a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) designated archaeologically sensitive area. However, the Proposed Action will only involve minimal disturbance of roadways and sidewalks that have been previously disturbed, and therefore will not result in any adverse impacts to archaeological or historic resources.

A small portion of the Proposed Action will be completed within the 100-year floodplain. This work includes five pole replacements and two pole installations located on Horton Avenue and Hassock Street, in the northwest portion of the project area. These activities will result in less than 0.02 acres of disturbance. As the Proposed Action will occur within the public roadway right-of-way, Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in any net increase to impervious surfaces. Since all areas of disturbance are temporary and will be restored to original pre-construction conditions, there will be no permanent change in topography within the designated floodplains. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not change existing Base Flood Elevations in the surrounding area and will not result in a significant adverse impact to floodplains, flood depths or flood water velocities. In addition, as the project is located within the New York City coastal zone, the New York State Consistency Assessment Form (CAF) and New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program Consistency Assessment Form have been completed. The Proposed Action was deemed consistent with the New York State Coastal Zone policies and the New York City WRP (see Appendix C).

The Proposed Action 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 as the Proposed Action will be completed within public roadway right-of-ways and adjacent road shoulders and sidewalk areas, and as there are no known habitats present within the vicinity of the Proposed Action. 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 would be experienced and will be managed according to traffic plans that will be shared with the County and NYCDOT, as necessary. Impacts on

access to businesses will be mitigated using administrative controls, such as publicly displayed notifications and correspondence through PSEG Long Island External Affairs, engineering controls, and mobilizing equipment vehicles.

On April 19, 2019, PSEG Long Island External Affairs emailed Dan Brown at the Office of the Queens Borough President; New York City representative, Harold Miller and New York City Community Board 14 representative, Jonathan Gaska. PSEG Long Island shared a draft customer letter, with a description of the work for the Proposed Action with these individuals. A photo simulation depicting a representative view of new poles to be installed as part of the Proposed Action was shared with the Mayor's Office, Queens Borough President's office and the New York City Community Board 14 on June 13, 2019. No opposition or questions were raised with regard to the Proposed Action. A customer letter will be sent to notify nearby residents and businesses prior to the commencement of construction activities.

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 planned construction of the Proposed Action. Based on the SEAF and PSEG Long Island'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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