

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

Project: Westhampton Beach Main Street – New Underground Cables and Associated Equipment

Date: July 16, 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 and the Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 prepared by Nelson, Pope and Voorhis, LLC (“NP&V”) 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: Westhampton Beach Main Street – New Underground Cables and Associated Equipment (“Proposed Action”)

Location: Main Street, Mill Road, Library Avenue and parking lots south of Main Street, Village of Westhampton Beach, Suffolk County, NY

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Project Description:

The Proposed Action is being undertaken to facilitate the undergrounding of electrical utilities associated with the Village of Westhampton Beach Main Street Roadway, Drainage and Streetscape Improvement Project (the “Improvement Project”). All work associated with the Proposed Action will be funded by the Village of Westhampton Beach and has been reviewed and approved by PSEG LI Distribution Design Engineering. Specifically, the Proposed Action involves the undergrounding of an existing overhead distribution line on Main Street and the installation of underground lines in the same general location. Additionally, the Proposed Action includes the installation of underground cable on Mitchel Road, Sunset Ave, Moniebogue Lane, Hulse Court, Parlato Drive, Library Ave, Glovers Lane and Mill Road. The approximate location of all underground cables is depicted in Figure 1. A total of 25 utility poles (35 foot to 45 foot) will be removed and seven riser poles (three 40-foot poles and four 35-poles) will be installed, and four existing poles will be converted to riser poles to connect the new underground cable to the remaining overhead system. Riser pole locations are also illustrated on Figure 1. Seven (7) pad mounted transformers, four (4) switchgear, eleven (11) below grade transformers, and fifteen (15) splice boxes are also proposed.

The Village of Westhampton Beach conducted an uncoordinated review of the Improvement Project and issued a negative declaration on June 7, 2018. The undergrounding of existing overhead services was identified in the Village's SEQRA and negative declaration, however, this review has been prepared because the Village did not coordinate with LIPA as an Involved Agency for the Village's SEQRA.

Some of the underground cable will be direct buried and some will be installed in conduits which will be installed by the Village's contractors. Direct buried cable will be installed via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) with the exception of the connection to proposed switchgears where trenching will be utilized. Trenching will also be utilized in areas where the Village is installing conduit as part of the Improvement Project.

Easements will be obtained from the property owners for pole installations on private property.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

Based on a review of the Proposed Action's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Short Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 ("SEAF") was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is an "Unlisted" Action as that term is defined in SEQRA. The two new 40' utility poles to be installed on Main Street and the single new 40' utility pole to be installed on Moniebogue Lane will be installed in-line with the existing utility poles. The four 35' utility poles will be placed along Hulse Court and within the parking lot at Hulse Court and Parlato Drive to provide service to the existing commercial buildings. All other work will be underground within existing disturbed areas. Additional equipment including seven (7) pad mounted transformers and four (4) switchgear, eleven (11) below grade transformers, and fifteen (15) splice boxes will be installed to facilitate underground electric service to customers. 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 level of disturbance from the installation of utility poles, underground cables and associated equipment will be minimal. Disturbed grass areas will be reseeded and all other disturbed areas will be restored in-kind. Underground cables will be installed via HDD and through customer installed conduit. A limited amount of trenching will be necessary to connect underground cables to pad mounted equipment.

The Proposed Action will involve disturbances of approximately 0.81 acres for subsurface excavations in the existing paved and disturbed parking areas; no clearing of trees or significant vegetation will be required. 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. 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. All work will be completed landward of the wetlands boundary and landward of an existing functional bulkhead located on the east side of 8 Moniebogue Lane and following the wetland boundary along Parlato Drive that was lawfully existing prior to August 20, 1977 and therefore is outside of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation tidal wetlands jurisdiction. Erosion controls will be utilized to ensure protection of the adjacent wetlands. The Proposed Action is not located within or adjacent to any Critical Environmental Areas.

Portions of the Proposed Action are within FEMA's 100-year and 500-year floodplains. However, the proposed underground cables would be confined to paved and previously disturbed areas. The Proposed

Action is not anticipated to significantly alter the existing floodplains in the vicinity of the project location, nor impact the rate of floodwater rise and fall, should flooding occur near the Proposed Action. As such, it is anticipated that there would be no significant adverse impacts to the designated floodplains.

The riser poles to be located on Main Street and Moniebogue Lane are in line and consistent with the existing utility poles in the area. A detailed Visual Assessment and associated analysis and photosimulations (see attached) of the four proposed poles to be located on Hulse Court and within the existing parking lot was conducted by Nelson, Pope & Voorhis and reviewed by PSEG LI. Per the findings of the Visual Assessment there is no potential visual impact because the new poles will be partially screened by existing vegetation and will be located in the rear property of commercial use structures within a previously developed parking lot. Additionally, the Proposed Action includes the removal of multiple utility poles along Main Street that are currently visible from this location. As such, the Proposed Action will have no significant adverse visual impact.

The proposed underground cable installations will occur adjacent to the Westhampton Beach Post Office, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (90NR01943). The majority of the work is proposed within the paved area along Main Street. A switchgear is proposed within the parcel adjacent to the Post Office. The project was submitted to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) which determined that the Proposed Action will not impact the Westhampton Beach Post Office. Based upon a review of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) database, the Proposed Action is not located within a designated "archaeological sensitive zone."

The SEAF evaluated the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and character of the area, traffic, and historic resources. No potential for a significant adverse impact on the environment, flora, fauna, community character or historic resources has been identified as a result of the construction or operation of the Proposed Action. Based on the SEAF 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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Dated: July 16, 2019