

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

Project: Eastport to Sunrise Highway 69 kV Underground Conversion Project

Date: November 26, 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 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: Eastport to Sunrise Highway 69 kV Underground Conversion Project

Location: County Road 55 (Eastport Manor Road), Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York 11941

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action is located along County Road 55 (Eastport Manor Road) between the Eastport Substation and Sunrise Highway.

The Proposed Action includes the removal of 26 steel utility poles and overhead 69kV transmission wire on the east side of Eastport Manor Road, and relocation of this 69kV transmission line underground. As many of the utility poles planned for removal are underbuilt with distribution wire, distribution wire will be removed from these poles and rerouted underground in order to connect to an existing overhead distribution line located on the west side of Eastport Manor Road (see Figure 1). All pole activities are shown on Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1 – Transmission Pole Removals and Replacements

Pole Number	Activity	Existing Pole Material	Existing Height (Feet)	New Pole Material	New Height (Feet)
160.5	Replace/ Relocate ~45' north ⁽¹⁾	Steel	105	Wood	100
161	Remove	Steel	100	--	--
161.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
162	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
162.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
163	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
163.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
164	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
164.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--

Pole Number	Activity	Existing Pole Material	Existing Height (Feet)	New Pole Material	New Height (Feet)
165	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
165.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
166	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
166.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
167	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
167.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
168*	Replace	Steel	95	Wood	40
168.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
169	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
169S*	Replace	Steel	65	Wood	40
170	Remove	Steel	100	--	--
170S*	Replace	Steel	65	Wood	40
171	Remove	Steel	110	--	--
172	Remove	Steel	110	--	--
172S*	Replace	Steel	65	Wood	40
173	Remove	Steel	100	--	--
173.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
174	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
174.5	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
175	Remove	Steel	95	--	--
176*	Replace	Steel	95	Wood	40
177	Remove	Steel	81	--	--
178	Remove	Steel	81	--	--

Notes:

⁽¹⁾: Replacement pole #160.5 will be a transmission riser pole

--: Not Applicable

*Replacement pole will be utilized for distribution purposes only

Table 2 - Distribution Pole Replacements and Installations

Pole Number	Activity	Existing Pole Material	Existing Height (Feet)	New Pole Material	New Height (Feet)
164S	Replace	Wood	45	Wood	45
8	Replace	Wood	35	Wood	45
9	Replace	Wood	35	Wood	45
10	Replace	Wood	35	Wood	45
11	Replace	Wood	35	Wood	45
12	Replace	Wood	35	Wood	45
13	Replace	Wood	35	Wood	45
7153	Replace	Wood	30	Wood	40
1895-3.5	Install	--	--	Wood	45
1895.5	Install	--	--	Wood	45

Notes:

--: Not Applicable

Approximately 4,280' of trenching is planned to install the 69kV underground transmission line and approximately 1,730' of directional drilling is planned to install the 13kV underground distribution line. Transmission trenching will start from pole #160 on the east side of Eastport Manor Road and run south towards Montauk Highway, into the Eastport Substation. Distribution drilling will take place from the east side of Eastport Manor Road, from a new pad-mounted switchgear, across to the west side of Eastport Manor Road to pole #164S. Directional drilling will also occur in two other locations: 1) from pole #165 on the east side of Eastport Manor Road to pole #11 on the west side of Eastport Manor Road, and 2) from

pole #165.5 on the east side of Eastport Manor Road to pole #10 on the west side of Eastport Manor Road.

Electrical infrastructure planned for installation along the project route includes one (1) pad-mounted switchgear, one (1) manhole and one (1) 16' splice vault. Additional work is planned within the limits of the Eastport Substation, including the replacement and relocation of a gas circuit breaker, installation of switching equipment, and distribution and transmission line underground interconnections. In total, approximately 0.76 acres of ground disturbance will occur for the entire project.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

The SEAF evaluates the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and community character, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources. Since the Proposed Action primarily involves the removal of overhead transmission poles and wires and installation of underground transmission and distribution cables, there will be no changes to land use or community character, nor will there be any effects on human health. Further, there will be no significant adverse visual impact as the Proposed Action will include the removal of poles and the installation of new poles that are no more than 10 feet taller than existing poles, and in certain instances shorter than the existing poles. Table 1 and Table 2, above, show the work on the transmission and distribution poles.

Ground disturbance will primarily take place within previously disturbed areas. Disturbed areas will be restored upon completion of the project.

Portions of the Proposed Action located north of Old Country Road are within the Pine Barrens Compatible Growth Area (CGA). The vast majority of work within the CGA will occur within paved roadway right-of-ways, concrete sidewalks, or vegetated areas directly adjacent to the existing roadway and maintained roadside. However, some vegetation clearing/trimming will be necessary to facilitate completion of the work, particularly in areas located north of the Sunrise Highway South Service Road, east of the transmission route. It is anticipated that approximately 0.15 acres of vegetation along the project route may be disturbed, including the approximate 0.04-acre area of clearing required north of the Sunrise Highway South Service Road. Any disturbed areas will be reseeded and/or replanted, as necessary, with appropriate native vegetation.

The entirety of the Proposed Action is located within the Coastal Zone Area South Critical Environmental Area (CEA). Portions of the Proposed Action are located within the Central Suffolk Pine Barrens CEA and associated Special Groundwater Protection Area (SPGA) CEA. As discussed above, vegetation removal and/or trimming will be required, and disturbed areas will be reseeded and/or replanted with appropriate native vegetation, as necessary. No surface waters or wetlands were identified in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. Excavation activities will not extend beyond depths of approximately 12 feet below ground surface and groundwater in the Proposed Action area is anticipated to be encountered at depths of 21+ feet below ground surface¹; therefore, the Proposed Action will not interfere with groundwater. As a result, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to these CEAs.

As a portion of the work is located within a New York State coastal zone, a New York State Department of State Coastal Assessment Form was completed for this work (see Attachment A). This work will be consistent with State coastal policies.

¹ United States Geological Survey (USGS) Long Island Depth to Water Viewer, <https://ny.water.usgs.gov/maps/li-dtw/>, Accessed 10/25/19

The Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife or ecological communities including the Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB) at either the individual or the population level. Shrub removal or tree trimming will occur along well-developed rights-of-way and will be minor in nature. The area requiring vegetation clearing north of the Sunrise Highway South Service Road was not observed to contain suitable habitat for NLEB, and clearing in this area will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

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: November 26, 2019