

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

**Project:** Far Rockaway Distribution Exit Feeder Project (the “Proposed Action”)

**Date:** July 2, 2020

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:** Far Rockaway Distribution Exit Feeder Project (the “Proposed Action”)

**Location:** Within and along the rights-of-way Beach Channel Drive, Birdsall Avenue, Beach 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Cornaga Avenue, Dickens Street, Enright Road, Gipson Street, Mott Avenue, Nameoke Avenue and Redfern Avenue, neighborhood of Far Rockaway, Queens County, New York

**SEQR Status:** Unlisted

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:** No

**Proposed Action Description:**

The Proposed Action includes the installation of two new 13.2kV underground (UG) distribution exit feeder cables and overhead (OH) distribution conversion and reconductoring work (C&R) along public roadways or rights of way in Far Rockaway (see Figures 1 through 3). The Proposed Action is required to provide reliable service for future development within the surrounding area, particularly for the proposed Far Rockaway Village Development located east of Redfern Avenue and south of Nameoke Avenue. The Proposed Action will also reinforce the existing LIPA distribution system.

The two distribution exit feeders will be installed in 6” conduits, with additional spare conduits installed for potential future distribution feeder installation. Each new UG 13kV distribution exit feeder will be approximately ±4,000 linear feet and will be installed via open trench. The feeders will originate from a switchgear located within the existing Far Rockaway Substation and will extend easterly within the existing rights-of-way as shown on Figure 2. Electrical appurtenances will be installed, including manholes along the UG distribution feeder routes and pad-mounted switchgears in areas surrounding the Far Rockaway Village Development. In addition, new distribution cable will be pulled through customer owned/installed conduit within the proposed Far Rockaway Village Development property. Underground cable connections extending from the distribution feeders to newly installed switchgears and riser poles will be completed as needed to support service connections.

Overhead C&R work will consist of limited pole replacements (less than 10), one new wood pole installation, and replacement of OH distribution wire along the rights-of-way shown on Figure 3. In addition, two of the replacement poles will become riser poles, and one existing pole (not proposed for replacement) will become a riser pole. Replacement poles will be wood and will be no more than 10 feet taller than existing poles. The new pole installation will be wood, no more than 10 feet taller than existing poles in the immediate area, and will be installed in-line with existing utility poles. Pole-top equipment upgrades or installations (transformers, switches, etc.) will be completed, as needed.

**Reasons Supporting This Determination:**

The Proposed Action is an “Unlisted” Action as defined in SEQRA. An Environmental Assessment (“EA”) was completed by PSEG Long Island. The EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. Based on a review of the Proposed Action’s scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, a Short Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 (“SEAF”) was prepared. The SEAF evaluates the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and character of the areas, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources. Key findings are outlined below.

- The Proposed Action involves the installation of distribution feeders beneath existing rights-of-way and OH C&R work along existing pole alignments; therefore, the Proposed Action will be consistent with the current character of the area. All distribution pole replacements/installations will involve wood utility poles that will be no more than 10 feet taller than existing poles in the immediate area and will be in-line with existing pole alignments. As such, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse visual impacts or impacts to land use.
- The Proposed Action will be located within 500 feet of property eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places (Engine Company 246 and 328/ Hook and Ladder 134 Fire House). In addition, 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 resources. A consultation request was submitted to OPRHP, and OPRHP responded in letters dated March 11, 2020 and December 19, 2019 that the Proposed Action would have no impact on historic properties, including archaeological and/or historic resources (see Appendix A).
- A small portion of the Proposed Action (the westernmost portion of the UG distribution feeder cable installations) may be located within NYSDEC-regulated tidal wetland adjacent areas, should field conditions warrant installation along the western side of Dickens Street and northern side of Enright Road. A joint application will be submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to obtain an individual tidal wetlands permit was obtained in the event work is located within wetland adjacent area jurisdiction. Appropriate sediment and erosion controls will be installed as required. There will be no significant adverse impacts to wetlands or wetland adjacent areas.
- As the Proposed Action is located within the New York State coastal zone and within a New York City waterfront revitalization program (WRP) area, a New York State Coastal Assessment Form

was completed and submitted to New York Department of State (NYSDOS) and a New York City WRP Consistency Assessment Form (CAF) was completed and submitted to the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) (see Appendix B). The Proposed Action will be consistent with and will not substantially hinder the achievement of any of the coastal policies set forth in 19 NYCRR Part 600.5 or New York City WRP.

- A portion of the Proposed Action will be completed within the 100-year floodplain. The Proposed Action will result in a negligible increase in impervious area, as the vast majority of the work will be completed within existing paved areas that will be restored upon completion of construction. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of flood waters on the Proposed Action site or within the project vicinity.
- 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 be completed within previously disturbed properties and public right-of-ways. Only minor tree trimming may be needed to meet PSEG Long Island distribution clearance requirements for the OH C&R work. 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.
- Areas of the Proposed Action are located within and adjacent to properties listed in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) environmental remediation database (Site Code C241224 and Site Code C241329). However, work activities to be completed within these properties involve the pulling of cable through existing conduit, and work activities adjacent to these properties will involve minimal ground disturbance. Proper health and safety protocols will be implemented during soil excavation activities. If necessary, excavation activities will be halted if any suspected contamination is identified until proper testing is completed, as warranted. As such, significant adverse impacts to human health are not anticipated during construction or operation of the Proposed Action.

Based on the EA 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 need not be prepared.

**For Further Information:**

Contact Person: Daniel Rogers, Manager, Estimating and Risk Management  
PSEG Long Island

Address: 175 East Old Country Road, Hicksville, NY 11801

Telephone Number: (800) 490-0025

E-mail: [PSEGLongIslandSEQR@pseg.com](mailto:PSEGLongIslandSEQR@pseg.com)

/s/ Rick Shansky

Rick Shansky

Senior Vice President of Operations Oversight

Dated: July 2, 2020