

State Environmental Quality Review
Positive DECLARATION
Notice of Determination of Significance

Project: Bridgehampton to Buell (BTB) New 69kV Underground Cable

Date: April 6, 2021

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 (“LIPA”), having an address at 333 Earle Ovington Blvd, Uniondale, New York, and serving as lead agency pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.6(b)(3) has determined, based on information provided by and the Full Environmental Assessment Form (“FEAF”) prepared by PSEG Long Island that the Proposed Action described below may have a significant adverse effect on the environment and that preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) will be required.

Name of Action: Bridgehampton to Buell (BTB) New 69kV Underground Cable (“the Proposed Action”)

Location: Below grade within the existing LIPA owned and/or controlled overhead Right-of-Way (“ROW”) in the Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York and the Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Type I

Proposed Project Description:

The Proposed Action is the installation of a new underground 69kV transmission cable from the Bridgehampton Substation located on Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike in the Town of Southampton to the Buell Substation located on Cove Hollow Road in the Town of East Hampton (approximately 5.2 miles). The new underground cable is designed to be installed below grade within the existing LIPA owned and/or controlled overhead right-of-way (ROW). Existing overhead circuits are currently located within the ROW and will remain under the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is intended to address transmission system constraints resulting from increased load demand from customers on the South Fork of Long Island.

In addition to the underground cable, fourteen manholes will be installed along the Proposed Action route. Approximately 4,000 linear feet of the cable extending east from the Bridgehampton Substation to the west side of Widow Gavits Road will be installed via horizontal directional drill (HDD) with a single manhole installed within the previously disturbed area west of Widow Gavits Road. Approximately 100 linear feet of the cable located west of Cove Hollow Road and beneath the LIRR will be installed via jack & bore. The remaining portions of cable installation will be installed via trenching.

To facilitate the temporary use of HDD equipment and pipe laydown during construction, a 0.9 acre portion of the LIPA owned and/or controlled overhead ROW north of the existing Bridgehampton Substation will be cleared; a 0.36 acre portion of the cleared area will also require grading to facilitate construction. A single manhole will be located within this cleared area. Approximately 0.31 acres of clearing and 0.11 acres of grading within the area north of the existing Bridgehampton substation will occur within 535’ of a known Tiger Salamander breeding pond. Due to the potential temporary loss of habitat, a Part 182 Incidental Take permit will be required. PSEG Long Island is currently discussing with the New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) appropriate mitigation measures, which will ensure a net conservation benefit to the species is achieved upon completion of the Proposed Action. Potential mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, the installation of a Tiger Salamander culvert to connect existing fragmented habitats.

Additionally, portions of the ROW may require stabilization in order to allow machinery access for the installation of the underground cable and manholes. Stabilization may include grading or excavation of existing soils and temporary placement of Recycled Concrete Aggregate (RCA).

Potential Impacts:

Based on a review of the Proposed Action's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the FEAF was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is a "Type I" Action as that term is defined in SEQRA. LIPA reviewed the FEAF and the FEAF Supplemental Information provided by PSEG Long Island and has determined that the Proposed Action has the potential to result in one or more significant adverse environmental impacts including to natural resources, historic and archeological resources, open space and recreation, and surface waters, as more particularly set forth in FEAF Part 3 and the FEAF Supplemental Information. After receiving comments on the Draft Scope, LIPA intends to issue a Final Scope, which will direct the content of the DEIS to be released for public review.

For Further Information:

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/s/ Rick Shansky
Rick Shansky
Senior Vice President of Power Supply and Wholesale Markets
Dated: April 6, 2021