

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

Project: Southampton Village Load Relief Project

Date: October 29, 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 (“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: Southampton Village Load Relief Project

Location: West Prospect Street, Moses Lane, Bishop Lane, Hill Street, North Sea Road, Tuckahoe Road, and Montauk Highway, hamlet of Shinnecock Hills, Village of Southampton, Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action includes the installation of a new 13kV distribution feeder from the LIPA owned Southampton Substation and upgrades to overhead distribution pole lines to improve main line capacity in order to redistribute load throughout the Village of Southampton. The Proposed Action will be constructed at multiple locations within the hamlet of Shinnecock Hills, Village of Southampton and the Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York., More specifically, construction will occur along West Prospect Street, Moses Lane, Bishop Lane, Hill Street, North Sea Road, Tuckahoe Road, and Montauk Highway.

The Proposed Action is planned to be carried out in three phases, which are summarized in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Phase 1 includes the in-kind replacement of 31 wood utility poles, the installation of 1 new wood utility pole, the removal of 2 wood utility poles, and the installation of 1 guy wire. All changes in pole heights are 10-feet or less. Approximately 5,785 feet of underground cable will also be installed in conjunction with Phase 1. Approximately 2,200 feet of that underground cable is planned to be installed via open trench; the remainder will be installed via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). Nine manholes will be installed along the underground cable route. Approximately 5,050 feet of overhead wire is planned to be replaced as part of Phase 1. The Phase 1 Location Map shows the location of all Phase 1 activities.

Phase 2 includes the in-kind replacement of 20 wood utility poles, the installation of 3 new wood utility poles, and the installation of 2 guy wires. All changes in pole heights are 10-feet or less. Approximately 2,300 feet of underground cable is also planned to be installed via HDD during Phase 2. Two manholes will be installed along the underground cable route. Approximately 3,229 feet of overhead wire is planned to be replaced as part of Phase 2. The Phase 2 Location Map depicts the location of all Phase 2 activities.

Phase 3 includes the in-kind replacement of 28 wood utility poles, the removal of 1 wood utility pole, and the installation of 1 guy wire. All changes in pole heights are 10-feet or less. Approximately 6,065 feet of overhead wire is also planned to be replaced as part of Phase 3. There is no underground work associated with Phase 3. The Phase 3 Location Map shows the location of all Phase 3 activities.

In total, approximately 0.35 acres of ground disturbance will occur for the entirety of the Proposed Action, inclusive of the pole relocations.

Table 1 – Underground Distribution Cable Installation Locations

Location	Approximate Length (feet)
Phase 1	
Southampton Substation to pole #17 on Moses Lane	4,100
Pole #25 on Moses Lane to pole #22 on Bishops Lane	925
Pole #1.5 on Bishops Lane to pole #3 on Captains Neck Lane	760
	5,785 (total)
Phase 2	
Pole #137.5 on Hill Street to pole #150.5 on Hill Street	2,300
	2,300 (total)

Table 2 – Overhead Distribution Wire Installation Locations

Location	Approximate Length (feet)
Phase 1	
Pole #11 on Halsey Street to pole #26 on Moses Lane, along Armande Street	2,400
Pole #1.5 to pole #23 on Bishops Lane between Moses Lane and Hill Street	2,650
	5,050 (total)
Phase 2	
Pole #137 to pole #138 on Hill Street	154
Pole #23 on North Sea Road to pole #43 on Main Street	1,775
Pole #40 on Old Town Road to pole #181 on Meeting House Lane	1,300
	3,229 (total)
Phase 3	
Pole #12 on Tuckahoe Road to pole #48 on Montauk Highway	1,900
Pole #47 to pole #18 on Montauk Highway	3,415
Pole #43 to pole #49 on Montauk Highway	750
	6,065 (total)

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 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, in-kind replacement of existing infrastructure, and in-kind installation of overhead distribution poles and wires and installation of new underground distribution

cables, there will be no changes to land use or community character, nor will there be any effects on human health.

The pole replacements are all in kind and any new poles are in line with the existing infrastructure. As there will be no change in pole alignment, no significant change in pole heights, no change in pole material, and no new infrastructure will be placed in areas where infrastructure does not currently exist, the Proposed Action will not significantly impair the visual landscape as experienced from any aesthetic resources of concern or interfere with or reduce the public's enjoyment and/or appreciation of any scenic, open space, or other visual resource. Thus, there will be no significant adverse visual impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

A portion of the Proposed Action site is located within and adjacent to the Southampton Village Historic district containing buildings that are eligible for listing on the State or National Register for Historic Places. However, the proposed work area will be limited to the existing utility right of way, which is not adjoining or adjacent to these buildings. In addition, the Proposed Action is located within a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) designated archaeologically sensitive area. A consultation request was submitted to OPRHP, and OPRHP responded in a letter dated July 15, 2021, that the Proposed Action would have no impact on historic properties, including archaeological and/or historic resources (see Attachment A). Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to the aforementioned areas.

Since, the construction activities are located behind Little Neck Road and Montauk Highway which are both greater than 100 feet in length and have both been paved prior to 1977, the Proposed Action is outside of the NYSDEC tidal wetland jurisdictional boundary associated with Old Fort Pond. Given the location of construction activities, the intervening roadway, and minimal disturbance associated with construction, no impacts to wetlands will occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that there are Northern Long-eared Bats (NLEB) located at or around the Proposed Action site. NLEB is listed as threatened, both Federally and in New York State. NLEB utilize tree cavities or trees with loose bark to roost, forage, and raise young. The Proposed Action will take place within and along paved right-of-ways and mowed roadside grass areas, all of which have been previously disturbed by past road construction and/or areas that undergo regular mowing/maintenance. Since no clearing of trees is proposed and all tree trimming will be minor in nature, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife or ecological communities, including the NLEB, at either the individual or the 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. Once construction is complete, all disturbed areas will be restored in-kind.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report also identified that a portion of the Proposed Action near Montauk Highway and Tuckahoe Road is located in the 100-year flood plain. The Proposed Action includes the replacement and installation of wood utility poles and underground cable and does not include the introduction of impervious surfaces or structures. Further, the Proposed Action will not result in changes in grade or flood patterns. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the 100-year flood plain.

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/ Billy Raley

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