

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

Project: Ocean Beach New 4kV Feeder Project Supplement

Date: February 2, 2022

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.

On December 18, 2021, the Long Island Power Authority (“Authority) issued a Negative Declaration related to the Ocean Beach New 4kV Feeder Project (the “Original Project”) which is incorporated here by reference. The Authority has determined, based on information provided by PSEG Long Island, that the Original Project as modified with the addition of a route change from the Ocean Beach substation on Surfview Walk to Bayview Walk, the addition of two more staging areas and elimination of plans for two riser poles (the “Proposed Action”) will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and will not increase the potential impacts of the Original Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not need to be prepared for the Proposed Action.

Name of Action: Ocean Beach New 4kV Feeder Project Supplement

Location: Village of Ocean Beach, Fire Island, and communities of Seaview and Ocean Bay Park, Town of Islip and Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

A Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) and supporting documents were prepared to evaluate the potential impacts of the Original Project for which LIPA issued a Negative Declaration dated December 18, 2021, which evaluation and determination are incorporated here by reference. The Original Project included the installation of approximately 5,500 feet of 4kV underground distribution cable and approximately 145 feet of aerial cable. The Original Project also included the installation of a new above ground cubicle inside the Ocean Beach Substation on a new 6 foot by 10-foot concrete pad. The Original Project also included the installation of three new poles. Lastly, the Original Project required two staging areas. The Proposed Action modifies the Original Project to include a route change from the Ocean Beach Substation on Surfview Walk to Bayview Walk and the addition of two more staging areas. The route change is a result of additional discussions held with the Village of Ocean Beach, who initially had concerns about impacts to future sewer infrastructure beneath the walkway, which led to the aerial cable design originally proposed. Several conversations with the Village have subsequently occurred in which the Village agreed that an underground design in this area would not interfere with any future

infrastructure and would be more resilient in the long term, particularly give the harsh environment experienced on Fire Island. Further, the additional staging areas allow for a more efficient implementation of construction activities. Use of these staging areas to enhance construction efficiency has also resulted from additional discussions with the Fire Island communities.

In the Original Project plan, the feeder exited the Ocean Beach Substation via open trench and traveled up a new 40-foot riser pole. The feeder would then continue via aerial cable from the rear property of the Ocean Beach Substation and head north towards Bay Walk where the aerial cable would dip underground at a new 40-foot riser pole. Then, along with three (3) spare conduits, the underground route would run north on Surfview Walk towards Bayview Walk for approximately 50 feet and then continue underground east along Bayview Walk until Dune Way. The Proposed Action modifies the portion of the Original Project route from inside the Ocean Beach Substation to the Bayview Walk. For the Proposed Action, the route is planned to exit the substation to the east via open trench within 10 feet of the substation and then continue east towards Surfview Walk via Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD). The route will then continue north, diagonally along Surfview Walk until Bayview Walk. The route will then be open trenched in the dirt area on Bayview Walk for about 100 feet for a cable splice. The route will then continue along the same route proposed in the Original Project. The Proposed Action removes the plans to install two 40-foot riser poles along the route behind the Ocean Beach Substation.

The Proposed Action will require two staging areas in addition to the two staging areas that were proposed in the Original Project. One staging area will be approximately 0.1 acres located on the corner of Midway Walk and Surf Road. The other staging area will be approximately 0.5 acres located on Bayview Avenue and Superior Street. Both sites do not require any preparation. The first site is currently a grassy baseball field that will be restored after use, if necessary. The second site is currently a paved area.

There will be approximately 0.01 acres of additional ground disturbance associated with the drill pits for the HDD which will be restored to pre-construction conditions, from the Proposed Action defined above, for a total of 0.06 acres for the overall project.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

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 to evaluate whether the Proposed Action increased the potential impacts of the Original Project or had the potential for new significant impacts.

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 installation of underground distribution cable in a developed area, there will be no changes to land use or community character, nor will there be any effects on human health. The evaluation conducted did not identify a potential for the Proposed Action to increase the previously identified potential impacts of the Original Project, or to produce new significant adverse environmental impacts. Further, there will be no significant adverse visual impact, as the Proposed Action eliminates the need to install two of the three riser poles proposed in the Original Project.

Portions of the Proposed Action are located adjacent to pedestrian and cyclist accommodating walkways. The vast majority of work will be conducted via HDD to minimize impacts on pedestrians and cyclists. Further, work will be conducted in the off-season (September to March) when pedestrian and cyclist traffic is at a minimum. As a result, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes.

The Proposed Action is located outside of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) tidal wetland jurisdictional boundary associated with Great South Bay because the construction activities are located behind bulkheads, which existed prior to 1977. Given the location of construction activities, the intervening bulkhead, 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 Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) located at or around the Proposed Action site. Piping Plover is listed as endangered in New York State and as threatened on the Federal Level. Piping Plover use sandy shorelines to roost, forage, and raise young. The Proposed Action does not include work within or directly adjacent to a sandy shoreline; all work will be conducted within paved walkways and outside of the breeding season. Least Tern is listed as threatened in New York State and as endangered on the Federal level. However, Least Tern is listed federally for the interior of the United States only, not the coast where the Proposed Action is taking place. Least Tern use large, open expanses of sandy or gravelly beach to breed. Least Tern and Piping Plover are commonly found nesting in the same area. Again, the Proposed Action does not include work within or directly adjacent to sandy or gravelly shoreline; all work will be conducted within paved walkways and outside of the breeding season. As such, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species including Piping Plover and Least Tern at either the individual or population level.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that the Proposed Action is located within the 100-year flood plain. Based on review of the FEMA Flood Zones layer on the Suffolk County, New York GIS Viewer and the FEMA Flood Map Service Center, the entire Proposed Action is located within Flood Zone AE (area subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual chance-flood event). The Proposed Action includes installation of an underground distribution cable within pre-existing paved walkways that will be restored to pre-construction conditions once work is complete. No change to existing elevations or flood patterns will result from the Proposed Action. Therefore, the Proposed Action will have neither a positive nor a negative effect on 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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Dated: 2/8/2022