

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

**Project:** Modified Brightwaters Substation New Bank, Switchgear, and Feeders

**Date:** June 3, 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.

The Long Island Power Authority (“Authority”) issued a Negative Declaration on July 14, 2021 related to Brightwaters Substation New Bank, Switchgear, and Feeders 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 in-kind replacement, installation, and removal of 194 wood utility poles and supporting utility infrastructure (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:** Brightwaters Substation New Bank, Switchgear, and Feeders Supplement

**Location:** Brightwaters Substation, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mechanicsville Road, East Main Street, Ocean Avenue, West Main Street, Smith Avenue, Gibson Street, Bay Avenue, North Clinton Avenue, Cooper Lane, Bayway Avenue, South Country Avenue, Sunset Road, Lakeview Avenue East, Union Boulevard, Hiawatha Drive, Ridgeway Boulevard, Hampshire Lane, Bardolier Lane, Orinoco Drive, Oakneck Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Montauk Highway, McCall Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Pease Lane, Butler Street, Hellwig Lane, Keith Lane, Highbie Lane in the hamlets of West Islip, West Bay Shore, and the Village of Brightwaters; all within the Town of Islip

**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 July 14, 2021. The Original Project included the installation of one 69-13kV transformer, one 13kV switchgear, two 69kV gas circuit breakers, and one circuit switcher at the Brightwaters Substation. The Original Project also included the installation of three new 13kV underground (UG) distribution feeders, the in-kind replacement of three transmission poles located within the Brightwaters Substation (outside of the fence line), and conversion and reconductoring (C&R) for associated overhead (OH) circuits. The OH C&R work associated with the Original Project included the replacement of approximately 13,023’ of existing OH wire, the in-kind replacement of eighty-nine existing wood utility poles, and installation of

twelve new wood utility poles. The UG C&R work associated with the Original Project included two UG feeder dips totaling approximately 1,425 feet in length. The Proposed Action supplements the Original Project to include additional in-kind replacement of 70 wood utility poles, installation of 9 new wood utility poles, 800' of underground cable via horizontal directional drill, the installation of two new wood riser poles, the installation of two new manholes, and supporting utility infrastructure.

The LIPA owned Brightwaters Substation is located in the hamlet of West Bay Shore, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York. All changes in pole heights for the Proposed Action are 10 feet or less. The Proposed Action will be constructed at multiple locations throughout the hamlets of West Islip, West Bay Shore, and the Village of Brightwaters; all within the Town of Islip (see **Table 1 – Distribution Pole Removals, Replacements, and Installations** and **Figure 1a-e Project Location Maps**).

Pole Action	Pole Number
<b>Existing Wood Pole to be Replaced with New Wood Pole &lt;10' Height Increase</b>	123, 15.5S, 31, 4, 1, 11, 12, 12, 14, 15, 19, 44, 6, 7, 1, 14, 1408X, 15, 17, 19, 2, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 3, 2, 2, 3, 35, 3E, 4
<b>Existing Wood Pole to be Replaced with New Wood Pole No Change in Height</b>	1, 10, 12, 13, 16, 2, 2.5, 3, 39, 6, 6.5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10, 11, 11, 17, 18, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 18, 21, 4, 5, 6, 1, 1.5, 1, 8
<b>Proposed Wood Pole (35'-45')</b>	15.25, 15.75, 17S, 8.5, 43A1, 9, 35A, 1433.5, 105.5

**Table 1 – Distribution Pole Replacements and Installations**

Additionally, an approximately 800' portion of the UG distribution feeder that will be located on Ridgeway Boulevard was originally intended to be installed via horizontal directional drill (HDD). During a review of the construction area, it was determined that the existing sewer lines are too deep to be able to safely utilize a direction drill. Therefore, the conduit will be installed via open trench in this location. As such, the Proposed Action includes the review of the installation via open trench at Ridgeway Boulevard. The conduit will be located within the previously disturbed roadway and no vegetative clearing is required. These changes will not result in any new incremental impacts. There will be approximately 0.05 acres of additional ground disturbance because of the use of trenching on Ridgeway Boulevard. The remainder of the underground feeders will be installed via HDD as indicated in the Brightwaters Negative Declaration.

The Proposed Action is required to provide reliable service for additional electric demand for Good Samaritan Hospital and future development within the surrounding area. The Proposed Action will also reinforce the existing LIPA distribution system.

**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 has the potential for significant environmental impacts and also evaluated whether any cumulative impacts would occur with the Proposed Action and Original Project .

The SEAF evaluated 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 in-kind replacement of existing infrastructure, and installation of distribution poles and wires 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.

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, and no change in pole material, 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 Bay Shore East Historic district containing buildings that are eligible for listing on the State or National Register for Historic Places. However, the Proposed Action 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 on November 29, 2021 for the additional work evaluated under the subject EA, and OPRHP responded in a letter dated December 2, 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.

The installation of 1 utility pole and replacement of 1 existing utility pole located on Cooper Lane are located within a NYSDEC regulated freshwater wetland adjacent area. These pole installation and replacement activities are authorized under PSEG Long Island's NYSDEC Permit #1-9901-00011/00032. Erosion and sediment control measures (i.e. silt fence) will be utilized around the work areas on Cooper Lane. The required Notice of Commencement was submitted to the NYSDEC on January 21, 2022 for the additional work evaluated in this SEQRA review. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to the adjacent wetlands.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that portions of the Proposed Action near Montauk Highway are located in the 100-year flood plain. The Proposed Action does not include the introduction of impervious surfaces or structures and 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.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report also identified that a portion of the Proposed Action is located near the Bay Shore Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site. The site was located near the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Oak Street in Bay Shore, just north of the Long Island Railroad tracks. The Proposed Action is located south of this site and will not disturb any soils in the area of the former MGP site. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the remediation site.

Cumulatively, the Proposed Action will not result in incremental impacts over those originally identified in the SEQRA review for the Original Project. Overall, no significant impacts will occur as a result of the Original Project or the additional scope of work identified in the Proposed Action on land use, natural resources, visual resources and community character, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources. 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: June 3, 2022