

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

Project: 2BB Broadway Conversion and Reinforcement (“C&R”) (the “Proposed Action”)

Date: September 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.

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: 2BB Broadway Conversion and Reinforcement (“C&R”) (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Existing overhead and underground distribution circuits within the Villages of Woodsburgh, Hewlett Neck, Valley Stream, and Cedarhurst, and in the hamlet of Woodmere, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action includes C&R of existing overhead (OH) and underground (UG) distribution circuits within the Villages of Woodsburgh, Hewlett Neck, Valley Stream, and Cedarhurst, and in the hamlet of Woodmere, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York (see Figure 1).

The Proposed Action is being completed in order to relieve overload conditions on existing distribution circuits currently serving the project area, and will therefore provide an adequate and more reliable electric supply, while also supporting future load growth in the area.

The Proposed Action will consist of the following OH C&R work:

- Reconductoring of approximately 5,850 linear feet of OH distribution wire on existing distribution circuits, and the installation of approximately 650 linear feet of new OH distribution wire to extend existing OH distribution circuits.
- The replacement of existing distribution poles, and the installation of one new distribution pole. Pole replacements will be completed in roadside areas (concrete sidewalks and grass areas) along the work areas depicted on Figures 2 through 5. Replacement poles will be wood, installed within existing pole alignments, and will be no more than 10 feet taller than existing poles. The new distribution pole will also be wood, installed within the existing utility pole alignment, and will be no more than 10 feet taller than adjacent poles. Pole top equipment (cross arms, capacitor banks, transformers, switches, etc.) will be replaced or installed throughout the project area.

The Proposed Action will consist of the following UG C&R work:

- The replacement of approximately 1,400 linear feet of an existing UG distribution circuit on Woodmere Boulevard in order to convert the circuit from 4 kilovolts (kV) to 13kV. Manholes will be installed along the UG cable route, as needed.
- Extension of existing UG distribution circuits by approximately 1,700 linear feet. Approximately four (4) manholes will be installed along the UG cable routes. Field conditions will dictate the exact placement of each manhole.

The Proposed Action activities are depicted on Figures 2 through 5. Although not depicted on the figures, pole-top C&R activities will also be completed along distribution circuits within the immediate project area and within the surrounding neighborhood.

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) requires State agencies, authorities, and entities to direct funding in a manner designed to achieve a goal for disadvantaged communities to receive 40% of overall benefits of spending on clean energy and energy efficiency programs. The CLCPA directs the Climate Justice Working Group to establish criteria for defining disadvantaged communities, however until the criteria is established, New York State has identified interim criteria for disadvantaged communities. The Proposed Action is not located in a disadvantaged community as provided for by the interim criteria and does not include funding for clean energy and energy efficiency programs.

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”) were prepared. Key findings are outlined below.

- A significant portion of the Proposed Action involves replacement and/or installation of distribution cable below roadways, which will be UG and therefore will not have the potential for significant adverse visual or land use impacts. OH activities will involve the replacement of existing distribution poles and wire, or the installation of

new OH infrastructure in areas where OH infrastructure currently exists. Replacement poles will be the same material, and no more than 10 feet taller than the poles they are replacing. One new pole to be installed will be comparable in height to adjacent poles (within 10 feet in height) and located within existing pole alignments. As a result, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse visual impacts or impacts to land use.

- The Proposed Action is located adjacent to one site that is eligible for listing in the State or National Register of Historic Places (130 Woodmere Boulevard South). However, work adjacent to this property will include UG cable installation within the roadway of Woodmere Boulevard South. Other than temporary construction-related disturbances during this work, there will be no physical or visual impacts to this property. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not have the potential for significant adverse impacts to this property. In addition, the Proposed Action is located within an area designated as archaeologically sensitive by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). Work activities within this area will be completed within previously disturbed areas where utility infrastructure already exists. A consultation request was submitted to OPRHP on April 19, 2022, and OPRHP responded in a letter dated May 18, 2022 indicating 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 these resources.
- Based on a review of historic tidal wetlands maps, Georges Creek is located adjacent to the Proposed Action area. However, work activities to be completed adjacent to the wetland are limited to OH wire replacement and pole-top activities. This work will not require any disturbance within the regulated tidal wetlands adjacent area or encroachment within the wetland boundaries. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not impact wetlands.
- Portions of the Proposed Action will be completed within the 100-year floodplain. Work within the floodplain will be limited to pole replacements within grass roadside areas and sidewalks, or UG cable and manhole installations within paved areas. All work areas not occupied by equipment will be restored upon the completion of construction. Therefore, the Proposed Action will result in a negligible increase of impervious area and will therefore not result in significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of floodwaters on the Proposed Action area or within the project vicinity.
- Portions of the Proposed Action are located within the New York State Coastal Zone. A New York State Coastal Assessment Form was completed and submitted to New York Department of State (NYSDOS) (see **Attachment 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.
- One State-listed threatened animal species (Common Tern) was identified in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. A consultation request was submitted to NYSDEC Natural Heritage Program (“NHP”) on April 19, 2022 to identify rare plants/animals or significant natural communities in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. A response was received from NHP on June 10, 2022 indicating that they have no records of rare or State-listed animals or plants, or significant natural communities at the site of the Proposed Action and that given the nature of the proposed work, no records of concern in the vicinity of the Proposed Action (see **Attachment C**). Common Terns

inhabit sand and shell beaches, grassy uplands and rocky inland shores. With the exception of the replacement of approximately 280 linear feet of OH distribution wire along the shoreline at the southern end of Woodmere Boulevard South, the Proposed Action will occur entirely within and along paved roadways located inland from the shoreline, which do not contain habitats suitable for the Common Tern. The replacement of the approximately 280 linear feet of OH distribution wire will be performed within a parking lot area located adjacent to the shoreline, which also does not contain habitats suitable for the Common Tern. Therefore, the Proposed Action does not have the potential for significant adverse impacts to the Common Tern.

No potential for a significant adverse impact on the environment, flora, fauna, community character or human health has been identified as a result 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 an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared.

For Further Information:

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/s/ Billy Raley

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Dated: September 2, 2022