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

Project: Flowerfield to Terryville New 69kV Underground Cable

Date: September 23, 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 significant adverse impact on the environmental and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Flowerfield to Terryville New 69kV Underground Cable (the "Proposed Action")

Location: Flowerfield Substation, St. James, New York 11780; Development Drive, Stony Brook Road, Oxhead Road, Nicolls Road (County Road 97), Sturrock Way, Pond Path, Smithtown Bypass (New York State Route 347); Terryville Substation, Setauket-East Setauket, New York 11733; hamlets of St. James, Stony Brook, Setauket-East Setauket, and Centereach; Towns of Smithtown and Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description

The Proposed Action includes the installation of approximately 25,800 linear feet (4.9 miles) of underground (UG) 69 kV transmission cable in the hamlets of St. James, Stony Brook, Setauket-East Setauket, and Centereach, in Towns of Brookhaven and Smithtown, Suffolk County, New York (see Figure 1). The vast majority of the cable will be installed in open trench. Portions of the cable will be installed via Jack and Bore and Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). The Proposed Action also includes the installation of ten (10) splice vaults along the Proposed Action route and associated substation equipment within the Flowerfield and Terryville Substations.

The cable will start at the LIPA-owned Flowerfield Substation, exit the substation to the west towards the adjacent parking lot, then loop to the east, and continue across the adjacent Long Island Railroad (LIRR) tracks until Development Drive. This approximately 600-foot LIRR crossing will be installed via HDD. The cable will continue east along Development Drive until Stony Brook Road. Then, the cable will continue south along Stony Brook Road until Oxhead Road where it will continue east until Nicolls Road. The cable will continue south along Nicolls Road until the recharge basin on the east side of Nicolls Road. Installation via open trench will occur between Development Drive and Nicolls Road. The route will cross the road shoulder at the southwest corner of the recharge basin to Sturrock Way. This approximately 500-foot segment will be installed via HDD. Installation will continue via open trench along the route which will travel east along Sturrock Way to Pond Path and then south from Pond Path to New York State Route 347 (SR 347). The approximately 200-foot portion of the route between Pond Path and SR 347 will be

installed via Jack and Bore. The cable will continue east along SR 347 until the LIPA-owned Terryville Substation. The cable will cross under SR 347 via HDD in a 500-foot segment until about 100 feet outside of the Terryville Substation fence line. The final portion of the route will be installed via open trench into the Terryville Substation.

The Proposed Action will require ground disturbance within both the Flowerfield and Terryville Substations. A circuit breaker, line panel, ground switch, gang operated device, and potential transformers (PTs) will be installed at the Flowerfield Substation and Air brake switches, ground switch, PTs, and line panel will be installed at the Terryville Substation.

The Proposed Action will require four locations along the Proposed Action Route to be cleared in order to carry out the work effectively. PSEG Long Island conducted an ecological review of the locations on May 23, 2022 to characterize the ecological communities present.

In total, approximately 1.8 acres of ground disturbance will occur for the entirety of the Proposed Action. A depiction of the Proposed Action is provided as Figure 2.

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 ("SEAF") Parts 1, 2, &3 were 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 installation of a new underground feeder and splice vaults in previously disturbed and paved areas and the installation of utility infrastructure in previously disturbed areas, there will be no changes to land use or community character, nor will there be any effects on human health.

Four distinct areas along the route will require vegetative clearing. These include an approximately 15,100 square foot (SF) area within the LIPA Right-of-Way across from the Terryville Substation, an approximately 2,500 SF area on the southeast corner of the recharge basin on Nicolls Road, an approximately 3,500 SF area for the launch pit, located within a forested barrier between SR 347 and the parking lot for the adjacent shopping center for the Jack and Bore across SR 347, and an approximately 1,500 SF area on Stony Brook Road.

Two ecological communities as defined by Edinger et al. (2014) are encountered within disturbance area located within the ROW across from the Terryville Substation. The northern portion of the disturbance area is comprised of successional shrubland, and the southern portion of the disturbance area contains successional old field. These communities are bisected by an existing dirt pathway which experiences light vehicle traffic. Species encountered within the successional shrubland include red cedar, winged sumac, oriental bittersweet, poison ivy, Virginia creeper, whorled loosestrife, mugwort, rockrose, dewberry, hay scented fern, black locust, wine berry, pin oak, slender bush clover, and yellow wood sorel. The habitat quality in this location is of moderate value due to the mixed occurrence of invasive species within the area to be disturbed.

The location at the recharge basin and the location on the southeastern side of SR 347 are comprised of Coastal Oak Heath forest. Species encountered at these locations include white oak, black oak, scarlet oak, low bush blueberry, huckleberry, Pennsylvania sedge, wisteria, and Oriental bittersweet. The habitat

quality in this location is of moderate value due to the presence of wisteria which is present throughout the wooded patch. The jack and bore to cross SR 347 requires an approximately 2,500 SF workspace area for the receiving pit, which will be located in a mowed grassy island within SR 347. The majority of the vegetation near the receiving pit on the north side of the jack and bore across SR 347 is maintained grass with a small shrub patch containing autumn olive and a black cherry tree. This island has little to no habitat value due to the presence of the invasive autumn olive and lack of contiguous habitat.

Finally, a portion of a retaining wall located between Stony Brook Road and Development Drive will be removed and restored, and the immediate area will be cleared to make way for the cable to be trenched in on Stony Brook Road. The ecological community in this area can be characterized as Successional Southern Hardwood forest, and is comprised of red maple, white pine, Oriental bittersweet, poison ivy, and mugwort. This area has little to no habitat value due to the predominance of invasive species that occupies the area to be cleared.

All of the locations to be cleared will be restored with native vegetation that compliments the native ecological communities encountered in the work areas and adjacent areas. All restoration areas will be monitored and replanted as necessary in order to achieve a restoration survival rate of 80%.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that the Proposed Action is located within or adjoins the following Critical Environmental Areas (CEA's): the South Setauket Woods CEA and Special Ground Water Protection Area (SGPA), and the Middle Island – Yaphank CEA. These locations have been designated as CEA's due to their benefit to human health and in an attempt to protect drinking water and groundwater. The majority of the Proposed Action requires the installation of an UG feeder that will take place within paved areas and previously disturbed areas. The average installation depth of the UG feeder is about 7 feet below the land surface. Based on USGS data, the depth to groundwater in the project location averages from 51-75 feet below land surface to 151-175 feet below land surface. Two short sections of the UG cable is planned to be installed about 50 feet below the surface. The depth of the groundwater in these locations averages 70 feet below the surface and greater. Therefore, depths of installation are not expected to reach depths where groundwater will be encountered. Tree clearing and trimming will be required in some locations along the Proposed Action Route. Cleared trees will be appropriately revegetated upon the completion of construction. Given this information, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the South Setauket Woods CEA and SGPA or the Middle Island – Yaphank CEA.

A portion of the Proposed Action site is located within and adjacent to the State University of New York at Stony Brook 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 paved and previously disturbed areas, which neither adjoin nor are adjacent to these buildings. A Portion of the Proposed Action is located within and adjacent to a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) designated archeologically sensitive area. A consultation request was submitted to OPRHP, and OPRHP responded with a letter dated January 25, 2022, 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 EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that a portion of the Proposed Action is adjacent to lands containing wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency. Upon further review of aerial photography and review of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) wetland maps, the Proposed Action is located outside of any freshwater and tidal wetland jurisdiction. No impacts to regulated wetlands or waterbodies will result from installation of the Proposed Action.

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 impact 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: September 23, 2022