

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

**Project:** Bridgehampton New Underground Feeders and Overhead Conversion and Reinforcement (C&R) Project

**Date:** November 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 a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**Name of Action:** Bridgehampton New Underground Feeders and Overhead Conversion and Reinforcement (C&R) Project

**Location:** Bridgehampton Substation, Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Main Street, Jermain Avenue, Suffolk Street, Madison Street, Middle Line Highway, Sagg Road, and Montauk Highway; hamlets of Noyack and Bridgehampton, Villages of Sag Harbor and Sagaponack, Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York

**SEQR Status:** Unlisted

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:** No

**Proposed Action Description:**

The Proposed Action includes the installation of two new 13kV distribution feeders from the LIPA owned Bridgehampton Substation and upgrades to overhead distribution circuits to improve distribution capacity in order to reduce electric load conditions and increase reliability to LIPA customers throughout the Town of Southampton, Village of Sag Harbor, and Village of Sagaponack. The Proposed Action will be constructed at multiple locations within the hamlets of Noyack and Bridgehampton, Villages of Sag Harbor and Sagaponack, and the Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York. More specifically, construction will occur along Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Main Street, Jermain Avenue, Suffolk Street, Madison Street, Middle Line Highway, Sagg Road, and Montauk Highway (see Figure 1).

Approximately 25,000 feet of underground cable in conduits and spare conduits will be installed via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) exiting the Bridgehampton Substation, to Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike and south of Middle Line Highway (see Figures 1a and 1d). The drill entry pit will be located adjacent to the eastern fence of the Bridgehampton Substation, and will exit at the western shoulder of Bridgehampton Sag Harbor Turnpike. The rest of the feeders will be installed via open trench.

The feeders will start at the Bridgehampton Substation and exit east onto Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike. The feeders will continue north along Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike/Main Street and then turn right on Jermain Avenue. One feeder will terminate at a riser structure to be installed on an existing pole to be replaced on the north side of Jermain Avenue, between Oakland Avenue and Palmer Terrace. The other feeder will continue along Jermain Avenue and then turn right on Suffolk Street. This feeder will continue south along Suffolk Street and then turn onto Middle Line Highway for approximately 200 feet and then turn onto Sagg Road. The feeder will terminate at a riser structure to be installed on an existing pole to be replaced on the west side of Sagg Road, just south of Mount Misery Drive. Additionally, approximately 19 manholes are planned to be installed along the underground feeder route. All work will be within the boundaries of the existing public right of way; no work will occur on private land.

The Proposed Action also includes the in-kind replacement of up to 150 wood utility poles and the new installation of 19 wood utility poles. The new poles will be of similar height to existing adjacent poles, and will range from 40' to 55' in height. Approximately half of the utility poles will require the in-kind replacement and new installation of anchors. More specifically, approximately 25 poles will require anchor replacements, and approximately 23 poles will require new anchors. Four poles located on Sagg Road, adjacent to the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) tracks, are planned to increase by a height greater than 10 feet. Two of the four poles will increase in height by 15 feet, while the other two poles will increase in height by 20 feet.

The majority of the Proposed Action requires installation of an underground feeder and replacement and new installation of wood utility poles within paved and previously disturbed areas. In total, approximately 0.55 acres of ground disturbance will occur for the entirety of the Proposed Action.

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:**

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 installation of underground facilities and the in-kind replacement of existing infrastructure, there will be no change 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. Four poles are planned to increase by a height more than 10 feet. However, the poles in-line with these four poles are also planned to be replaced with taller poles. After the replacements, the largest height differences between the poles will be 10 feet as opposed to 20 feet if the adjacent poles were to remain the same. As there will be no change in pole alignment 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.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that the Proposed Action is located within the following Critical Environmental Areas (CEA's): the Aquifer Protection Overlay District CEA and the Special Groundwater Protection Area (SGPA). Additionally, the EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that the Proposed Action is adjacent to the Long Pond CEA. These locations have been designated as CEA's due to their benefit to human health and in an attempt to protect drinking water, groundwater, and preserve pure water quality. The majority of the Proposed Action requires installation of an underground feeder and replacement and new installation of wood utility poles within paved and previously disturbed areas. Based on United States Geological Survey (USGS) data, the depth to groundwater in the project location averages from 11-20 feet below land surface to 76-100 feet below land surface. Sections of the feeder on Main Street, Jermain Avenue, Suffolk Street, and the northern end of Sagg Road will be installed in locations that average 11-20 feet below land surface will be installed at a shallower depth than usual, even though the feeder, on average, will be installed above 11 feet in depth. Therefore, depths of installation are not expected to reach depths where groundwater will be encountered. If groundwater were to be encountered, dewatering to an appropriate storm drain with a pump without well points will be utilized to ensure proper installation of the cable. Should dewatering be required, appropriate flow controls will be utilized to ensure that scour does not occur at the discharge point. Given this information, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the Aquifer Overlay District CEA, the Long Pond CEA, and SGPA.

The New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) provided PSEG Long Island with a report dated August 10, 2022 that identifies the non-definitive presence of rare or state-listed species of significant natural communities. Two ecological communities as defined by Edinger et al. (2014) were identified by NYNHP to be in the vicinity of the project site; Coastal Oak-Heath forest and Coastal Plain Pond Shore. The Coastal Oak-Heath forest has been documented by NYNHP to be adjacent to the Proposed Action site in multiple locations. As the Proposed Action is limited to disturbance to the existing mowed and maintained road shoulders, no impacts to these communities will occur. Plant species documented by NYNHP at the project site along Sagg Road include hairy thoroughwort (*Eupatorium pubescens*), small white snakeroot (*Ageratina aromatica*), and black-seeded spear grass (*Piptochaetium avenaceum*). Additional plant species that were documented by NYNHP within a half mile of the project site include stuve's bush clove (*Lespedeza stuevei*), narrow-leaved blue curls (*Trichostema setaceum*), and wild pink (*Silene caroliniana ssp. pennsylvanica*).

PSEG Long Island conducted an ecological assessment of the project route on August 17, 2022. A majority of the project locations to be disturbed exist within maintained and mowed roadsides. Areas that

are not comprised of maintained roadside exist along Sagg Road. Plant species that were encountered in the project area along Sagg Road include but are not limited to; deer tongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*), low bush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), and common cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*). PSEG Long Island did not encounter any of the plant species listed by NYNHP in the areas of disturbance for the Proposed Action.

All of the locations to be disturbed 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%.

A portion of the Proposed Action site is located within and adjacent to the Sag Harbor 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 paved and previously disturbed areas, which do not adjoin or 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 July 12, 2022, that the Proposed Action is in an archeologically sensitive area and OPRHP recommended a Phase 1A archeological investigation (see Attachment A). PSEG Long Island retained GEI Consultants, Inc., P.C. (GEI) and PaleoWest Archaeology to conduct the Phase 1A investigation. Following the Phase 1A investigation, PaleoWest proposed carrying out a Phase 1B archeological survey and OPRHP concurred with this decision. Fieldwork for the Phase 1B survey concluded on September 2, 2022. No historic or prehistoric artifacts were encountered during the Phase 1B investigation. PaleoWest proposed that no further actions are required and OPRHP concurred with this decision in a letter dated September 22, 2022. As no archaeological artifacts were encountered, no impacts to archaeological resources will occur.

Portions of the underground feeder located on Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike and Jermain Avenue are located within a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulated freshwater wetland adjacent area. These installations 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. All disturbed areas will be restored with appropriate native species. Additionally, the work within the regulated freshwater wetland adjacent area will take place within paved roadway or previously disturbed, mowed and maintained road shoulders. The required Notice of Commencement was submitted to the NYSDEC on July 8, 2022. Given the planned controls and restoration measures outlined above, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to the adjacent wetlands.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified the following State or federally listed threatened or endangered species are located at or around the Proposed Action site: Eastern Tiger Salamander, listed as endangered in New York State (NYS) and not listed federally; Scarlet Bluet, listed as threatened in NYS and not listed federally; Pine Barrens Bluet, listed as threatened in NYS and not listed federally; Bald Eagle, listed as threatened in NYS and protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act federally; Hessel's Hairstreak, listed as endangered in NYS and not listed federally; and Northern Long Eared Bat, listed as threatened both in NYS and federally. 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, with the exception of limited areas along Sagg Road. Additionally, the Proposed Action will not encroach on or physically alter wetland areas in the vicinity of the work. Since no clearing of trees is proposed and all tree trimming will be minor in nature and no wetland disturbance is planned to be an outcome from the Proposed Action, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife or ecological communities, including the Eastern Tiger Salamander, the Scarlet Bluet, the Pine Barrens Bluet, the Bald Eagle, the Hessel's Hairstreak, and the Northern Long Eared Bat, 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 identified that portions of the Proposed Action are located in the 100-year flood plan. 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 plan.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that a portion of the Proposed Action is located near the Sag Harbor Landfill (SHL) and Rowe Industries Inc. (RII) State Superfund sites. The SHL site is located on the east side of Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, across from the LIPA owned Bridgehampton Substation. HDD and hand trenching will take place in the adjacent roadway and shoulder. From the early 1950s to the late 1960s, the SHL site served as a municipal landfill for the Village of Sag Harbor. In the 1980s and 1990s, the SHL site was an active brush and transfer station. Sludge residues from a solvent tank and detergent tank, waste chemicals and solvents from several industries and unauthorized household garbage have all been dumped at the site in the past. The Village of Sag Harbor currently leases a one acre portion to the Town of Southampton which is used as a transfer station for waste from the Town and Village. A Phase I Investigation was completed in 1989 and a State Superfund Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA) was completed in March of 1994. The results of the investigations conducted at the SHL site concluded there are no environmental problems associated with the disposal of hazardous waste at this site. The RII site is located about 4,000 feet north of the Bridgehampton Substation on the east side of Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike. The RII site currently hosts Sag Harbor Industries, Inc., an electronics manufacturer. According to NYSDEC, remediation at the RII site is complete. Prior to remediation, the primary contaminants were tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and its daughter products in groundwater and soil. Remedial actions have successfully achieved the soil cleanups objectives for industrial use. Residual contamination in the soil and groundwater is being managed under a Site Management Plan. The Proposed Action will not disturb any soils in the area of either site. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to either the remediation sites.

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:**

Contact Person: Erin Gorman, Manager, Environmental Projects and Permitting  
PSEG Long Island

Address: 175 East Old Country Road, Hicksville, NY 11801

Telephone Number: (800) 490-0025

E-mail: [PSEGLongIslandSEQR@pseg.com](mailto:PSEGLongIslandSEQR@pseg.com)

/s/ Billy Raley

---

Billy Raley  
Senior Vice President, Transmission and Distribution

Dated: November 23, 2022