

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

Project: Munsell Road Reconstruction Overhead and Underground Reconfiguration and Expansion Project

Date: December 5, 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: Munsell Road Reconstruction Overhead and Underground Reconfiguration and Expansion Project

Location: Munsell Road, hamlet of Medford, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action is the replacement of a single-phase service with 3-phase service, pole replacements, extension of the existing pole line and the extension and replacement of the underground 3-phase service on Munsell Road in the Town of Brookhaven (see Figure 1). This work is required to support the Town of Brookhaven’s reconstruction and widening of Munsell Road and to relocate services to existing customers in areas where the existing infrastructure conflicts with the proposed reconstruction.

Overhead work consists of the replacement of existing overhead wires along approximately 1,300 feet of Munsell Road extending south from the intersection of Munsell Road and Horseblock Road. Additionally, new 3-phase overhead primary and secondary cables will be installed along approximately 1,000 feet of Munsell Road and terminate at a new riser pole.

To facilitate the Town’s road reconstruction as well as the replacement of and installation of new overhead wires, the Proposed Action includes the in-kind replacement of 5 existing wood poles and installation of 9 new wood poles. The pole replacements will be no more than 10 feet taller than the existing poles and will be installed a minimum of 2-feet from the face of the new widened curb to be installed by the Town

of Brookhaven. The new pole installations will be wood, no more than 10 feet taller than the typical existing poles in the area, and will be installed in-line with the existing utility poles.

Underground work consists of the installation of new underground cable beneath approximately 2,000 feet of Munsell Road. To the north, the new underground cable will terminate at a new riser pole; to the south, the new underground cable will terminate at a new manhole located approximately 1,200 feet to the south of the intersection of Munsell Road and National Boulevard. An existing section of underground cable located along approximately 1,500 feet of Munsell Road will be abandoned in place. Electrical appurtenances including thirteen manholes, 3 riser poles, and one above ground, pad-mount, switchgear which will be installed along the path of the underground cable. Multiple riser poles are required to facilitate the connection to the existing consumer owned services. The switchgear will be located within the franchise area at the northwest corner of the intersection of Munsell Road and National Boulevard.

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") were prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action. The SEAF evaluated the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and character of the areas, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources. Key findings are discussed below.

- Installation of new utility poles and replacement of the existing poles will occur adjacent to the roadway, and in the immediate vicinity of existing electrical infrastructure that is comparable in both height and appearance to what currently exists. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse visual or land use impacts.
- The Proposed Action is not located within or adjacent to an area that is designated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) as archaeologically sensitive. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources.
- No portions of the Proposed Action are located within or immediately adjacent to any National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)-mapped wetlands, or any New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulated wetlands or wetland adjacent areas. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not impact wetlands.
- The following threatened or endangered species were identified as being potentially located in the vicinity of the Proposed Action: northern long-eared bat (state and federally-listed threatened). Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines, called hibernacula. They

typically use large caves or mines with large passages and entrances; constant temperatures; and high humidity with no air currents. Northern long-eared bats roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of trees during summer. Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. It has also been found, rarely, roosting in structures like barns and sheds¹.

The Proposed Action will be completed within and immediately adjacent to the existing roadway, and does not contain suitable habitat for the aforementioned threatened species.

Since no clearing of trees is proposed, no permanent loss of habitat for any rare, threatened or endangered wildlife species will occur, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the identified threatened and endangered species.

For Further Information:

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/s/ Billy Raley
Billy Raley
Senior Vice President, Transmission and Distribution

Dated: December 5, 2022

¹ <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045>