

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

**Project:** Suffolkaire Substation Exit Feeder and Overhead Work

**Date:** February 14, 2023

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:** Suffolkaire Substation Exit Feeder and Overhead Work

**Location:** Old Riverhead Road (CR 31) in the Town of Southampton and Old Riverhead Road (CR 31), Depot Road, Station Road and the Existing Suffolkaire Substation in the Village of Westhampton Beach, Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York

**SEQR Status:** Unlisted

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:** No

**Proposed Action Description:**

The Proposed Action includes the installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet of a new underground exit feeder from the Suffolkaire Substation in the Village of Westhampton Beach, Town of Southampton, installation of three manholes, and reconductoring of approximately 2,400 linear feet of existing overhead cables on Old Riverhead Road (CR 31) in the Town of Southampton and Old Riverhead Road (CR 31), Depot Road, Station Road in the Village of Westhampton Beach (see Figure 1). This work is required to accommodate increased load for new metered electric vehicle charging stations for an Amazon warehouse, and for the new Rechler Equity building at the Gabreski Airport Industrial Park.

Overhead work consists of the reconductoring of existing wires along approximately 2,400 linear feet of Old Riverhead Road (CR 31). Reconductoring will begin approximately 360 feet north of the intersection of Rogers Avenue and extend north along Old Riverhead Road (CR 31), ending approximately 100 feet south of the intersection of Old Riverhead Road (CR 31) and Moen Street.

The Proposed Action includes the in-kind replacement of 4 existing wood poles and installation of 1 new wood pole. The pole replacements will be no more than 10 feet taller than the existing poles (see Table 1). The one new pole installation will be wood, will be installed in-line with, and of similar height to the

existing utility poles in the area. Minimal vegetation removal and/or tree trimming may be required for the overhead work.

Table 1: New and Replacement Pole Heights

Pole Number	Existing Height	New Height
24.5	*	45-feet
30	35-feet	40-feet
33	35-feet	40-feet
35	35-feet	40-feet
39	40-feet	45-feet

\*- New Pole Installation

Underground work consists of the installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet of new underground cable and three manholes. The new underground cable will begin at existing infrastructure within the Suffolkaire Substation. The underground cable will exit the south side of the existing substation, extend east along Station Road, south on Depot Road, east along the existing easement between Depot Road and Old Riverhead Road (CR 31), and north on Old Riverhead Road (CR 31) for approximately 165 feet where it will terminate at an existing pole (#25). Approximately 1,200 feet of the new underground cable will be installed within an existing spare conduit located along the Proposed Action route; approximately 1,300 feet will be installed via open trench.

As illustrated in Figure 1, two of the manholes will be located within an existing easement and the third manhole will be located within the paved roadway on Station Road. Some vegetation removal will be required for the installation of the two manholes within the existing easement. The easement area largely consists of maintained mowed lawn and landscaped areas with low growing vegetation. No tree removal is required.

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. However, the project supports the goals of the CLCPA as it will ultimately provide services for an electric vehicle charging station.

**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 a new utility pole and replacement of four existing poles will occur adjacent to and within existing roadways, 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 involves the replacement of four existing utility poles and reconductoring of approximately 2,400 linear feet of existing overhead wires on Old Riverhead Road (CR 31). The pole replacements and work located on Old Riverhead Road (CR 31) north of the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) tracks are located within the Central Pine Barrens Core Preservation Area and partially within the Compatible Growth Area. The Proposed Action will not result in removal of trees or changes to existing land use. Therefore, the Proposed Action will have no significant adverse impacts on land use and the Proposed Action will be consistent with the current character of the area. As per Environmental Conservation Law section 57-0107 (13)(i) and (v), the above described activities do not constitute development. The Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission Planning and Policy Manager Julie Hargrave was notified of the project via email January 24, 2023. Hard copies of the notification were also mailed to her attention. No concerns were expressed during communications.
- 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.
- Portions of the Proposed Action are adjacent to the Westhampton Long Island Railroad Station, which has been determined by the Commissioner of OPRHP to be 'Eligible' for listing on the State Register of Historic Places (Building #10309.000108). However, work adjacent to this property will include underground cable installation within the roadway of Station Road. Other than temporary construction-related disturbances during this work, there will be no physical or visual impacts to this property. Due to its proximity to the Proposed Action, a consultation request was submitted to OPRHP. In a letter dated November 28, 2022, OPRHP indicated that due to the nature of the Proposed Action there is no potential for significant adverse impacts to this property (see Attachment A).
- 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 Proposed Action is located within the Central Suffolk Special Groundwater Protection Area and the Aquifer Overlay District, which are designated as Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) to protect groundwater, protect human health, and preserve pure water quality and drinking water. The Proposed Action will involve ground disturbance at relatively shallow depths (less than 5

feet below grade). Based on the United States Geological Survey Long Island Depth to Water Viewer, groundwater at the Proposed Action site is located at depths greater than 70 feet below grade; therefore, excavation activities will not encounter groundwater. Further, the Proposed Action will involve minimal removal of low lying vegetation in the area of trenching, will not involve any waste discharges to ground surface, and will not involve the installation of any sanitary facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to these CEAs.

- 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 sheds<sup>1</sup>. 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.
- The Proposed Action involves activities within or adjacent to State Superfund sites which are listed in the NYSDEC environmental remediation database, which include the Suffolk County AAF Bombing and Gunnery Range (Site Code: 152224), Suffolk Air Force Base FUDS (Site Codes: 152226, 152261), Francis Gabreski Airport (Site Code:152261), and the Gabreski Air National Guard Base (Site Code: 152148). Additionally, The Proposed Action involves activities adjacent to Francis Gabreski Airport Formerly Suffolk County (Site Code: V00576), which is identified by the NYSDEC as a Voluntary Cleanup Site. A single pole replacement (Pole 39) located on the west side of Old Riverhead Road (CR 31) will be located within the Suffolk County AAF Bombing and Gunnery Range (Site Code: 152224) parcel, however, the work location is not within the area of potential contamination as defined by the United States Army Corps of Engineers<sup>2</sup>. No ground disturbance will occur within the remaining State Superfund sites and Voluntary Cleanup Site. PSEG Long Island's contractor will be required to submit an acceptable Health and Safety Plan (HASP) to PSEG Long Island prior to construction. Proper health and safety protocols will be implemented during soil excavation activities and coordination with appropriate regulatory agencies will be conducted, as required. Therefore, significant adverse impacts to human health are not anticipated during construction or operation of the Proposed Action, nor will there be significant adverse impacts to the remediation of this site.

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

<sup>2</sup> The Site Inspection Report for the Suffolk AAF Bombing and Gunnery Range can be viewed at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Topics/SuffolkCountyFUDS/SuffolkAAF-Final-SI-Report-2-11-201.pdf>

**For Further Information:**

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/s/ Billy Raley

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Dated: February 14, 2023