

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

Project: Elwood New Feeders and Conversion and Reinforcement (the “Proposed Action”) Approval Request Memo

Date: September 28, 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: Elwood New Feeders and Conversion and Reinforcement (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Within the existing Elwood Substation, Elwood Road, Rocco Drive, 5th Avenue, Laurel Hill Road, Old Pine Lane, Dickinson Avenue, Cayuga Avenue, Laurel Avenue, Fort Salonga Road (Route 25A), in the hamlet of Elwood; Fort Salonga Road (Route 25A), Little Neck Road in the hamlet of Centerport; Centerport Road in the hamlet of Greenlawn; Laurel Avenue, Main Street, Norwood Avenue, Ocean Avenue, Goldenrod Avenue, and Dogwood Road in the Village of Northport, all in the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York.

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action includes the installation of three new underground 13kV distribution feeders from the LIPA-owned Elwood Substation (the “Substation”) and upgrades to overhead distribution circuits to allow for future load growth. The Proposed Action will be constructed at multiple locations within the hamlets of Elwood, Centerport, Greenlawn and the Village of Northport, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York. More specifically, construction will occur along Elwood Road, Rocco Drive, Laurel Hill Road, Dickinson Avenue, Cayuga Avenue, Laurel Avenue, Fort Salonga Road (Route 25A), Little Neck Road, Centerport Road, Main Street, Norwood Avenue, and Dogwood Road (see Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Approximately 20,000 feet of underground cable will be installed. In total, 34,350 feet of conduits will be installed; this includes the conduit that will contain the underground cable as well as spare conduit to be installed adjacent to the cable. Installation will be primarily via

open trench with portions potentially installed via horizontal direction drill. Except for the immediate exit of the feeders from the Substation and the connections to riser poles, all cables and conduits will be installed within the roadway and/or road shoulders. The underground cable will connect to existing switchgears in the Substation.

Two new feeders will exit the north side of the Substation before continuing north on Elwood Road. One of the north feeders will terminate at a replaced riser pole at the intersection of Laurel Hill Road and Elwood Road. The other north feeder will continue north on Elwood Road for approximately 3,000 feet before turning east on Dickinson Avenue. That feeder will turn from Dickinson Avenue and traverse portions of Tompkins Street, Cayuga Avenue Laurel Road, Main Street, Norwood Avenue, Dogwood Road and terminate at a new riser pole (See Figure 2b-2d).

The third new feeder will exit the south side of the Substation via existing conduit. After exiting the south side of the Substation, this feeder will continue approximately 3,100 feet south on Elwood Road and terminate at a new riser pole.

The Proposed Action also includes the installation of fifteen new wood distribution poles. The new distribution poles will be installed within existing utility pole alignments and will be no more than 10 feet taller in height than existing adjacent poles. Additionally, approximately fifty-two existing wood poles and approximately 8,300 feet of overhead wire will be replaced. Overhead work will occur on Ocean Avenue, Dogwood Road, Goldenrod Avenue, Norwood Avenue, Fort Salonga Road (Route 25A), Centerport Road, Laurel Hill Road, Old Pine Lane, Rocco Drive, 5th Avenue, and Elwood Road. Replacement poles will also be wood, no more than 10 feet taller in height and will be located within the same general location. See **Table 1** for replacement pole heights. Additional work, including but not limited to the replacement/installation of guy wires, anchors and pole-top modifications will occur, as needed.

Table 1: Replacement Pole Heights

Existing Pole Height	New Pole Height	Number of Poles
30	35	3
30	40	1
35	40	13
35	45	12
40	40	10
40	45	11
40	50	1
45	45	1

No new equipment to be installed at the Substation and only minor disturbance of vegetation and lawn areas will be required north of the Substation, at the intersection of Laurel Hill Road and Elwood Road, and the intersection of Norwood Road and Dogwood Avenue will be required to connect the underground feeders to riser poles. Additionally, one manhole will be placed in the maintained lawn area at the intersection Laurel Hill Road and Elwood Road. Minor disturbance of vegetation will also occur in the immediate areas where pole installations

and removals will occur. Tree trimming and removal of select hazardous trees will be required during construction.

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.

- Installation of the new underground feeders will occur within paved roadways, and in the immediate vicinity of the existing Substation where existing electrical infrastructure currently exists. Additionally, installation of fifteen new distribution poles and replacement of existing utility poles will occur adjacent to the paved roadways where existing electrical infrastructure that is comparable in both height and appearance currently exists. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse visual or land use impacts.
- Portions of the Proposed Action are located within areas that are designated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) as archaeologically sensitive. The Proposed Action will be completed within, and immediately adjacent to paved roadways and in the vicinity of the existing Substation where extensive previous disturbances have occurred. Additionally, one property listed in the National Register of Historic Places and two properties eligible for listing are located adjacent to the Proposed Action; Suydam House (USN Number: 10304.000881); William J. Brosnan School & Administration Building (1924, 1960 addition) (USN Number: 10349.000535); Northport High School (USN Number: 10304.001171).

Due to the Proposed Action being located within an archeologically sensitive area and adjacent to eligible and listed Historic Places, a consultation request was submitted to OPRHP. In a letter dated July 27, 2023 OPRHP confirmed that no archeological and/or historic resources would be impacted by the Proposed Action (see Attachment A). Given the location of the Proposed Action within a previously disturbed area, as well as the findings of OPRHP, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources or historic properties.

- Although no threatened or endangered species were identified by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Environmental Assessment Mapper (as indicated in the SEAF), correspondence with the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) was completed and the following threatened or endangered species were identified as being potentially located in the vicinity of the Proposed Action: sweetbay magnolia (endangered), bald eagle (threatened), and northern long-eared bat (endangered) (See Attachment B). Habitats associated with these species are discussed below.

Flora Habitat Requirements

Sweetbay magnolia is a flowering tree that grows in swamps and low woods typically categorized as red maple hardwood swamps or red maple sweetgum swamps¹. The Proposed Action location does not contain suitable habitat for the aforementioned species and no significant adverse impact to this species will occur.

Fauna Habitat Requirements

Bald eagles prefer undisturbed areas near large lakes and reservoirs, marshes and swamps, or stretches along rivers where they can find open water and fish². They tend to use tall, sturdy conifers that protrude above the forest canopy, providing easy flight access and good visibility. Bald eagles build some of the largest of all bird nests and typically return to the same nest year after year³.

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 sheds⁴.

Proposed Action Impact on Threatened, and Endangered Fauna

Per NYSDEC guidance, in order to prevent disturbance to bald eagles, any utility construction must be no closer than 660 feet from the active bald eagle nest as long as a visual buffer is present between the nest and the construction activities⁵. At the closest point the Proposed Action will be greater than 1,000 feet from the active nest on the north side of East Main Street. Topography and vegetation within this area provides a significant visual buffer that will obscure any construction activities from the being viewed from the nest site.

NYNHP noted the northern long-eared bat in the vicinity of work located on Dogwood Road. Tree trim and removal of hazardous trees will be required where overhead work is proposed in this area. This work is consistent with ongoing maintenance activities routinely undertaken. To avoid potential incidental take of the species, all tree removal activities will occur between December 1 and February 28.

Tree trim and removal of hazardous trees will be required in the areas of the overhead C&R work. This work is consistent with ongoing utility maintenance activities routinely undertaken. These activities will occur only within the area of the Proposed Action. No loss of habitat for any rare, threatened or endangered wildlife species will occur. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impact to the rare, threatened and endangered species described above.

¹ <https://guides.nynhp.org/sweetbay-magnolia/>

² <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/74052.html>

³ https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald_Eagle/lifehistory#

⁴ <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045>

⁵ https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/baeaguidance.pdf

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 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 need not be prepared.

For Further Information:

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/s/ Billy Raley

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