

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency
In accordance with 44 CFR §9.8 for Executive Orders 11988 and 11990
Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) Storm Harden - Pole Replacements
Queens and Nassau Counties, New York

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) as subrecipient for the replacement of up to 385 defective Class 4 or 5 wood utility poles with stronger Class 2 wood utility poles located throughout Queens and Nassau Counties, New York through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The purpose of HMGP is for communities to develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses. This notification is given in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management) and EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and their implementing regulations in 44 CFR Part 9, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

The project is to be located throughout Queens and Nassau Counties. Existing Class 4 or 5 wood utility poles will be removed and replaced within existing rights-of-way and will be placed within 12-inches of the existing pole as a standard and at a maximum distance of 5-feet from the existing pole where the 12-inch standard may not be feasible due to site conditions. Currently, Class 4 and/or 5 wood utility poles are not as strong as Class 2 wood utility poles and are a public safety hazard, posing a risk of falling during severe weather events.

This action would take place within the 100-year floodplain and mapped wetlands. Alternatives considered include: 1) no action, 2) the proposed alternative to replace Class 4 and 5 wood utility poles, or 3) installing underground electric utilities. FEMA has determined that removing and replacing the existing wood utility poles with new, stronger Class 2 wood utility poles is the only feasible option regarding continuation of operations, cost, and maintenance ease. Potential floodplain and wetland impacts are anticipated to be temporary during construction and minimized through best management practices and conservation measures incorporated from resource agency recommendations and required regulatory permits.

Comments about this project, potential alternatives, and floodplain impacts may be submitted in writing within 15 days of the date of this publication to: FEMA Region 2, Attn: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY, 10278 or via email to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov. If substantive comments are received, FEMA will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental documentation for this project.