

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

Project: Woodmere Conversion and Reinforcement Feeder Extension (the “Proposed Action”)

Date: June 5, 2024

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: Woodmere Conversion and Reinforcement Feeder Extension (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Johnson Road, Rason Road, Bay Boulevard, Peninsula Boulevard, Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878 and Rockaway Turnpike, Village of Cedarhurst and hamlet of Inwood, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action includes the underground (“UG”) and overhead (“OH”) extension of an existing 13 kilovolt (“kV”) distribution feeder and C&R of existing OH circuits along Johnson Road, Rason Road, Bay Boulevard, Peninsula Boulevard, Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878, and Rockaway Turnpike. Proposed Action is needed to support load growth from new and future developments and to improve reliability of the commercial area in the vicinity of Rason Road. The location of the Proposed Action is depicted on Figure 1.

Approximately 1,200 feet of feeder cable will be installed UG, extending from a new riser pole to be installed on Johnson Road and continuing easterly along Bay Boulevard. The feeder will then extend OH to the east for approximately 375 feet between two new riser poles on Bay Boulevard, crossing over Incinerator Road and Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878. The feeder will again transition back UG just east of Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878 and then extend for an additional, approximately 1,200 feet, connecting to a new riser pole on Peninsula Boulevard. The UG portions of the feeder cable will be installed in

conduit via open trenching. A spare conduit will also be installed. Two new manholes will be installed along the UG feeder cable route.

The Proposed Action will require: (i) the installation of two new 45-foot wood poles (one with a riser installed) that will extend to approximately 38.5 feet above grade; (ii) the installation of two new 50-foot wood poles (one with a riser installed) that will extend to approximate heights of 43 feet above grade; (iii) the installation of two new 55-foot wood poles that will extend to approximately 47.5 feet above grade (both will have a riser installed); (iv) the replacement of six 35- to 40-foot existing wood distribution poles that currently extend to approximately 29.5 feet to 34 feet in height above grade with new 45-foot wood distribution poles that will extend to approximate heights of 38.5 feet above grade. All new poles will be installed within existing pole alignments, as shown on Figure 3.

C&R activities will include the reconductoring of approximately 700 feet of OH wire along Johnson Road and Rason Road, and installation of approximately 50 feet of new OH cable on Rockaway Turnpike, which will connect two existing OH circuits to provide future load transferring capabilities. Pole-top equipment (cross-arms, transformers, switches, cable connections, etc.) will be installed/replaced throughout the Proposed Action area, and circuits may be reconfigured via switching.

All replacement poles will be in-kind (same construction material, general location and not more than 10 feet taller than the poles they are replacing). No broad-scale clearing of vegetation will be required. Minor tree trimming may be required for select pole installation activities; however, no tree trimming will be completed in any potential State-listed threatened species habitat areas located within vegetated areas immediately adjacent to Bay Boulevard and Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878.

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.

- Feeder installation will primarily be UG, with the exception of the crossing over Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878, a highly trafficked roadway lined with OH infrastructure. The new poles installed for this crossing will range from 38.5 feet to 43 feet in height, similar to existing utility poles in the area which range in height from 29 to 39 feet. In addition, transmission lattice steel structures that extend to approximate heights of 100 feet exist in the vicinity of the OH crossing portion of the Proposed Action; the structures support an existing 69kV transmission line which extends in a north to south direction along Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878. Pole replacements will be in-kind (same construction material, same location, and no more than 10 feet higher than poles they are replacing) and OH wire replacement will look visually consistent to what is currently in place.

One new pole installation (55-foot pole on Peninsula Boulevard that will extend to approximately 47.5 feet in height) will be approximately 13.5 feet and 18 feet taller than adjacent 35-foot and 40-foot poles, respectively, currently within the alignment.

Both of these adjacent poles will be replaced with slightly taller poles, which will result in the new pole being within 10 feet in height to these poles once replaced. Existing utility poles in the surrounding area currently consist of 35- to 45-foot poles that extend to approximate heights of 29.5 feet and 38.5 feet. No local, state, or federally designated scenic or aesthetic resources exist in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse visual impacts, and given its location in areas where OH and UG infrastructure currently exists, will not result in any significant adverse land use impacts.

- As the Proposed Action is located within the New York State coastal zone, a New York State Coastal Assessment Form was completed and submitted to the New York State Department of State (“NYSDOS”) on May 7, 2024 (see Appendix A). The Proposed Action will be consistent with and will not substantially hinder the achievement of any of the coastal policies set forth in 19 NYCRR Part 600.5.
- A portion of the Proposed Action is located within the Jamaica Bay Critical Environmental Area (“CEA”). Construction activities within the CEA will be occurring within the roadway and sidewalk areas of Bay Boulevard and Peninsula Boulevard and will not encroach Jamaica Bay or the regulated adjacent wetland area, and there will be no modifications to any vegetation within the CEA. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to this CEA.
- Due to the shallow depth of groundwater in the vicinity of the Proposed Action, dewatering may be required during construction. If extracted groundwater requires discharge to surface waters or the sewer system, best management practices (filter bags and inlet protection) will be implemented to protect these resources.
- The Proposed Action is located within an area designated as archaeologically sensitive by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (“OPRHP”). Work activities will be completed within previously disturbed areas where utility infrastructure already exists. A consultation request was submitted to OPRHP on March 27, 2024, and OPRHP responded in a letter dated April 7, 2024 indicating that the Proposed Action would have no impact on historic properties, including archaeological and/or historic resources (see Appendix B). Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to these resources.
- The EAF Mapper Summary Report indicated that the Proposed Action is located on, or adjoining wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state, or local agency. However, upon further review of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Environmental Resource Mapper, the Proposed Action is not located in the regulated wetland or regulated adjacent area.
- Two State-listed threatened animal species (Upland Sandpiper and Northern Harrier) were identified as being potentially located in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. Upland Sandpipers inhabit large areas of short grass interspersed or adjacent to taller grasses^[1]. Northern Harriers inhabit open grasslands, shrubland, and salt and freshwater marshes. Nests are placed on the ground, usually in dense cover^[2].

The Proposed Action will primarily occur within paved rights-of-way. Limited work activities will be completed within vegetated areas immediately adjacent to Bay Boulevard and Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878, including three new

^[1] <https://guides.nynhp.org/upland-sandpiper/>

pole installations to the south of Bay Boulevard. Bay Boulevard and Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878 are highly trafficked roadways located within developed commercial and industrial areas. The proposed pole installations are located within an area that has undergone extensive disturbance/redevelopment in recent years as part of the New York State Department of Transportation (“NYSDOT”) Nassau Expressway/New York State Route 878 Operational and Resiliency Improvements Project. As the pole installations will require negligible disturbance (<5 square feet per pole), and given the nature of the surrounding area, it is highly unlikely that the aforementioned species inhabit or utilize the Proposed Action site. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to these species.

- The Proposed Action is located within the 100-year floodplain. The Proposed Action will result in a negligible increase in impervious area (approximately 10 square feet in total due to new pole installations). All areas not occupied by infrastructure installations will be restored (with seed/sod, concrete, or asphalt, as found prior to construction) upon completion of construction. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of floodwaters on the Proposed Action site or Proposed Action Area.
- The EAF Mapper Summary Report indicated that the Proposed Action is located on or adjoining property that has been the subject of remediation for hazardous waste. However, upon review of the NYSDEC’s DECInfo Locator interactive map, the Proposed Action is not located on or adjoining any property that has been the subject of remediation for hazardous waste.

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 will not be prepared.

For Further Information:

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