

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

Project: Port Jefferson New 13 Kilovolt (“kV”) Distribution Feeder

Date: April 16, 2026

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 (“LIPA”) 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: Port Jefferson New 13 Kilovolt (“kV”) Distribution Feeder

Location: Port Jefferson Substation, Long Island Power Authority (“LIPA”) Right-of-Way (“ROW”), Old Post Road, Gnarled Hollow Road, Harbor Hill Road, Jones Street, Highland Avenue, Main Street/Old Town Road, S Jersey Avenue, North Country Road/New York State Route 25A (“NYS25A”), Limroy Lane; hamlet of Setauket-East Setauket and Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action includes the installation of a new underground (“UG”) 13kV distribution feeder from the Port Jefferson Substation (the “Substation”) in a southerly direction along the existing LIPA ROW and multiple roadways to a new riser pole (#3.5) and then connected by overhead (“OH”) wire to an additional new riser pole (#5.5), from which the UG feeder will continue to an existing pad-mounted transformer that will be replaced. The Proposed Action also includes the acquisition of an easement from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), as described below. The Proposed Action is being completed entirely within the hamlet of Setauket-East Setauket, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York (see **Figures 2 through 7**), and is being undertaken to increase electrical capacity in the area.

The Proposed Action is located within an area primarily characterized by residential land uses, with some commercial, utility, and other institutional land uses. Setauket Elementary School (the “School”) is located along Main Street, adjacent to a portion of the Proposed Action.

The new UG feeder will include installation of approximately 14,500 linear feet of UG distribution cable within conduit, with two additional spare conduits being installed. The UG feeder will extend south within existing conduit from the Substation within the LIPA ROW, across NYS25A. The specific locations of the feeder route and new riser poles are more particularly shown on Figures 1 through 11. An easement for the switchgear located on the north side of Limroy Road will be obtained from NYSDOT prior to its installation. Additionally, 17 new manholes will be installed along the cable route and one existing wood distribution pole will be replaced. Cable installation will be completed via open trench, with horizontal directional drilling (“HDD”) being utilized under NYS25A. A NYSDOT Highway Work Permit will be obtained prior to commencement of construction for that portion of the work.

In total, the Proposed Action will require approximately 0.8 acres of ground disturbance.

A coordinated review letter was sent to the NYSDOT on November 12, 2025, due to the acquisition of an easement for the switchgear location on Limroy Lane from the agency. The 30-day response period has since passed, and NYSDOT did not provide comment.

SEQRA Findings

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”) was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action.

The SEAF evaluates the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and community character, energy use, environmental hazards, and human health resources. Key findings are outlined below.

- The distribution cable installation will be located entirely UG in areas where subsurface utilities exist. The distribution pole replacement (#317.5) will be approximately 5 feet taller than the existing pole (40 feet to 45 feet). The distribution/riser pole installations (#3.5, #4.5, and #5.5) will be similar in height (45 feet) and appearance to the existing OH utility infrastructure and will be installed within or at the end points of existing pole alignments. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse visual or community character impacts.
- A portion of the Proposed Action is located within the NYS25A Corridor Critical Environmental Area (“CEA”) (see **Figure 8**). This area is designated to protect public health, open space, and wetlands. Depth to groundwater in this area is anticipated to be encountered at approximately 2 to 70 feet below grade¹. With the exception of the

¹ <https://ny.water.usgs.gov/maps/li-dtw/>

installation of cable on NYSDOT roadway, which will be directionally drilled to a depth of approximately 6 feet below grade, and manhole excavations to depth of approximately 10 feet below grade, open trench activities in this area are planned to be completed to depths of less than 5 feet below grade. Work activities in this area will not involve the introduction of any hazardous substances to the subsurface. In the event dewatering is required, and extracted groundwater requires discharge to the sewer system, any dewatering and sewer discharges will be performed in accordance with applicable New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulations. As such, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to this CEA.

- As the Proposed Action is located within the New York State Coastal Zone (see **Figure 9**), a New York State Coastal Assessment Form was completed and submitted to the New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) on October 14, 2025, (see **Attachment 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 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 600.5.
- As shown in Figure 10, the Proposed Action is located adjacent to a building that is listed on the State and National Register for Historic Places (Sherwood-Jayne House). There are additional buildings that are eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places (Hulse House and Setauket Methodist Church) that are located adjacent to the Proposed Action. Due to the nature of work activities described above, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to these properties. Utility infrastructure exists in all areas of the Proposed Action, including within or adjacent to the properties mentioned above. In addition, the Proposed Action is located within a New York State Office of Parks and Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) designated archaeological buffer area. A consultation request was submitted to OPRHP on April 29, 2025. OPRHP responded with a letter dated May 15, 2025, indicating that the Proposed Action would have no impact on above-ground historic resources; however, recommended a Phase 1A Literature Search and Sensitivity Assessment Survey (“Phase 1A”) and a Phase 1B Archaeological Investigation (“Phase 1B”) be completed as the Proposed Action is located within an archaeologically sensitive area (see **Attachment B**).

A Phase 1A was completed for the Proposed Action in October 2025, by TRC Companies, Inc. (“TRC”), which concluded that several areas of archaeological sensitivity exist throughout the Proposed Action area. TRC prepared a Phase 1A report, dated October 2025, which did not recommend additional archaeological testing (a Phase 1B survey) for a majority of the Proposed Action area. However, TRC recommended avoidance or a Phase 1B survey for two portions of the Proposed Action located within the LIPA ROW. PSEG Long Island confirmed that no work will occur within one of the areas recommended for Phase 1B survey; however, work cannot be avoided in the other area. TRC conducted and completed the Phase 1B, which included seven shovel test pits within the LIPA ROW, on March 17, 2026. The Phase 1B concluded that no archaeological resources would be affected by the Proposed Action. The Phase 1B report was submitted

to OPRHP on March 26, 2026. OPRHP responded with a letter dated March 31, 2026, indicating that they concur with the finding of no effect and that no further archaeological investigations are warranted (see **Attachment C**). Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to these resources.

- Several portions of the Proposed Action are located within the 100-foot regulated freshwater wetland adjacent area (see **Figure 11 and Figures 11a-b**). Work activities within the regulated freshwater wetland adjacent area are authorized under PSEG Long Island’s NYSDEC Maintenance Permit and will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of this permit. Best management practices will be implemented for work in these areas, and appropriate sediment and erosion protection will be installed to protect the wetland areas. The Proposed Action will not encroach on the physical boundaries of the regulated wetlands. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to wetlands.
- One endangered species was identified as being potentially located at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action: northern long-eared bat (“NLEB”), which are state and federally-listed endangered.

NLEB 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. NLEB 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. Rarely, it has also been found roosting in structures like barns and sheds².

The majority of the Proposed Action will be completed within existing paved roadways or at the Substation, neither of which contains vegetation, wetlands, or suitable habitat for the NLEB. These roadways are within developed residential areas, and roadside vegetation in these locations is minimal. Given the pole locations immediately adjacent to active roadways, it is unlikely that the NLEB inhabit or utilize the Proposed Action site. However, to ensure no adverse impacts to NLEB and no potential take³ of the species, all tree trimming/removal activities will be conducted during the hibernation season when bats are not expected to be present (December 1st through February 28th). Therefore, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to have a significant adverse impact on NLEB species or suitable habitat.

A consultation request was submitted to the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) on April 29, 2025, to obtain additional information on the potential presence/location of rare, threatened, or endangered species. NYNHP responded with a letter dated June 27, 2025, (see **Attachment D**) identifying the potential presence of one State-listed threatened plant (Hyssop Hedge Nettle) and one rare community type (Marine Back-barrier Lagoon). Hyssop Hedge Nettle was reportedly documented at the ROW north of Old Post Road in June 2020, and the Marine Back-barrier Lagoon was reportedly

² <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045>

³ 6 NYCRR Part 182

documented within 0.25 miles north of the Proposed Action. PSEG Long Island conducted a site visit on July 9, 2025, to evaluate the presence of the Hyssop Hedge Nettle at and in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Action, particularly in the area south of the Substation. The Hyssop Hedge Nettle was not observed in areas that will be disturbed during construction. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the identified plant species. Additionally, the Proposed Action will not encroach or overlap with the Marine Back-barrier Lagoon and therefore will not result in significant adverse impacts to the identified rare community.

Habitats associated with the threatened plant species are discussed below.

Hyssop Hedge Nettle grows mainly on coastal plain pondshores but can also be seen in wet sandy disturbed openings and wet areas of sand roads within pine barrens. Hyssop Hedge Nettle is threatened by too much development along the shoreline of some ponds and direct disturbance by trampling and ATV use. The invasion of Phragmites is also a threat to a few populations⁴.

The Proposed Action will be completed adjacent to a wet sandy opening that is dominated by Phragmites. However, the Proposed Action will not encroach into this area, and therefore is not located in an area that would be suitable habitat for Hyssop Hedge Nettle.

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:

Contact Person: Erin Gorman, Senior Manager, Environmental Projects and Permitting
PSEG Long Island

Address: 175 East Old Country Road, Hicksville, NY 11801

Telephone Number: (800) 490-0025

E-mail: PSEGLongIslandSEQR@psegliny.com

/s/ Jason Horowitz

Jason Horowitz

Deputy General Counsel, Long Island Power Authority

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⁴ <https://guides.nynhp.org/rough-hedge-nettle/>