

County Road 48 Pole Relocation Project
SEAF Part I – Supplemental Information Sheet

Part 1 – Description of the Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is located along County Road 48 (North Road) between Albertson Lane and Chapel Lane continuing south along Chapel Lane and within LIPA's right of way on the west side of Chapel Lane.

The Proposed Action is being carried out in support of Suffolk County Department of Public Works (SCDPW) County Road 48 reconstruction project. The Proposed Action includes the replacement, removal, and installation of both distribution and transmission utility poles, and relocation of a portion of a transmission line from overhead to underground. The transmission work includes the replacement of 26 wood transmission poles, the removal of seven (7) wood transmission poles, the installation of four (4) new wood transmission poles, and the installation of one (1) temporary wood transmission pole. The distribution work includes the replacement of four (4) wood distribution poles, and the installation of eight (8) new wood distribution poles. The four (4) distribution poles to be replaced will increase in height by less than eight feet. Two (2) transmission poles will increase in height between 21 and 25 feet, thirteen (13) transmission poles will increase in height between 15 and 20 feet, eight (8) transmission poles will increase in height between 10 and 14 feet, and three (3) transmission poles will increase in height by less than 10 feet (see Figure 1).

Approximately 1,900 linear feet of trenching is planned to relocate an existing 23 kV transmission line underground. Trenching will begin at transmission pole 180.2, then will travel north along Chapel Lane, and will end on County Road 48 at pole 9, located east of Chapel Lane. The trench will be 3 feet wide, and associated disturbance will total approximately 0.13 acres.

The Proposed Action will result in approximately 0.20 acres of ground disturbance for all proposed improvements.

Item 2 – Permit, Approval, or Funding from Any Other Government Agency: The Proposed action requires a NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands (Article 24) Permit (coverage obtained through PSEGLI General Permit 1-9901-00011/00026) as a portion of the Proposed Action is close to freshwater wetlands. A notification letter will be sent to the NYSDEC 14 days prior to the commencement of construction. In addition, concurrence through the Town of Southold Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) must be obtained. After conducting a Coastal Consistency Review, it was found that the Proposed Action is consistent with the policies of the LWRP and will not hinder the achievement of those policies.

Item 6 – Consistency with Character of the Surrounding Landscape and Visual Impacts: Existing scenic resources include the beach located about 400 feet to the north of the Proposed Action and the adjacent nature preserve (Arshamomaque Preserve) located directly south of CR 48 and west of Chapel Lane. Aboveground transmission wires and poles will be replaced in the same location as the original utility poles with an increase in height of the poles, as depicted in the Photo Simulation Attachment. On Chapel Lane, an improvement in the viewshed will be realized as one set of transmission poles will be removed, and one transmission line will be buried, thus reducing the number and predominance of the electrical infrastructure within the viewshed (see Views 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12). Along CR 48, the height increase is noticeable when standing on the beach and looking towards Soundview Inn (see Views 3 and 4). The change in height is also noticeable when traversing CR 48 (see Views 1, 2, and 5). However, this height increase does not result in a significant change to the character of the corridor that results in the visual resource integrity being compromised.

The pole height increases will not significantly impair the visual landscape as experienced from any aesthetic resources of concern or interfere with or reduce the public's or area residents' enjoyment (ie., the beach) and/or appreciation of the appearance of any scenic, open space (Arshamomaque Preserve), or other resource. Thus, there will be no significant adverse visual impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

Item 13 – Federal, State, or Local Agency Regulated Wetlands: A portion of the Proposed Action is located within a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulated freshwater wetland adjacent area (NYSDEC ID: SO-2). Coverage under PSEGLI's Wetlands General Permit (#1-9901-00011/00026) will be obtained two weeks prior to the commencement of construction. A 2,400 square foot (0.06 acre) area will be cleared within the Adjacent Area along Chapel Lane. The clearing is necessary to facilitate the replacement of poles 180.1, 180.2, and the installation of pole 180 on LIPA's right of way (ROW). There will be various utility pole removals, replacements, and new installations within the regulated wetland adjacent area. Most of the adjacent area work will be located on Chapel Lane. Also, within the adjacent area, there will be trenching within the paved roadway along Chapel Lane. The disturbance associated with the utility poles planned to be replaced and installed within the regulated freshwater wetland adjacent area will be reduced to be the minimum necessary for installation work, and will be no more than 0.06 acres. Measures to protect the wetlands include the use of standard erosion and sediment controls. Any disturbed areas will be reseeded and/or replanted, as necessary, with appropriate native vegetation.

Item 15 – State or Federally listed Threatened or Endangered Species: The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that there are Northern Cricket Frogs (NCF) located at or around the Proposed Action site. NCF is listed as endangered in New York State but is not listed Federally. NCF utilize aquatic vegetation to lay egg masses and they prefer slow-moving, algae-filled watercourse habitats¹. The Proposed Action will include vegetation trimming and removal in Freshwater Wetland Adjacent Areas but will not include disturbance to habitats utilized by NCF. Further, the Proposed Action Site was not observed to contain suitable NCF habitat. Moreover, NCF populations are listed as extirpated (locally extinct) in New York State since the 1940s, therefore, it is unlikely that a NCF population will be present within the Proposed Action Site. Given the foregoing, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife or ecological communities, and will not result in an impact to the NCF at either the individual or the population level.

Item 16 – 100-year Flood Plain: The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that the Proposed Action is located in the 100-year flood plain. The Proposed Action includes the replacement and installation of wood utility poles and does not include the introduction of impervious surfaces or structures. Further, the Proposed Action will not result in changes in grade or flood patterns. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the 100-year flood plain.

¹ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Northern Cricket Frog Fact Sheet, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7120.html>, Accessed 3/4/2020

Operational, Construction and Outreach Issues

- Construction will be undertaken in two phases. Poles along CR 48, numbered from 157.5 to 169.5, will be worked on beginning in April with work expected to be completed by Memorial Day weekend. No work will be undertaken during the summer. The second phase of the work will commence in September and is expected to be completed either the end of October or November. The Phase II work will begin with the underground transmission work on Chapel Lane. Then the pole work on Chapel Lane will commence starting mid-September and the remaining work on CR 48 will follow, either at the end of October or beginning of November.
- The Proposed Action will not cause any significant operational or construction impacts. The schedule avoids or minimizes any potential traffic impacts during the peak traffic season. Short term traffic disruptions may be experienced and will be addressed via traffic control implementation and coordination with local municipalities for work within municipal roadways.
- In the immediate vicinity of construction activity, access to residences and businesses will be temporarily limited, but at no point completely blocked. During work shifts, a worker will be assigned to move protective barriers to allow access to properties. At all times there will be a path for emergency equipment to access all residences and businesses. At completion of all work shifts access will be returned to previously existing conditions.
- PSEG Long Island External Affairs will mail letters to customers located in the vicinity of the Proposed Action approximately one week prior to the start of construction.
- Phase I, April to Memorial Day crews will work Monday – Friday, 7am-5pm from. Phase II, September to end of October crews will work Monday – Thursday 7am-5pm from and in November crews will work Monday – Friday 7am-5pm. Occasional and limited weekend and overnight work may occur to minimize impact on traffic as needed.