

**Emily Hepding**

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May 21, 2024

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission  
c/o Ms. Julie Hargrave  
624 Old Riverhead Road  
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

RE: PSEG Long Island Notification of Work  
LIRR and LIPA/Public Right-of-Way Transmission Pole Replacements  
Hamlets of Rocky Point, East Shoreham, Brookhaven, Shirley, Northampton, and  
Westhampton, and Village of Manorville, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County

Dear Ms. Hargrave,

PSEG Long Island, as agent for the Long Island Lighting Company d/b/a LIPA, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Long Island Power Authority, is providing notification to the Commission for project activities located within the Central Pine Barrens.

Project activities within the Central Pine Barrens will include the replacement of eleven transmission poles (Pole #s 226, 240, 25, 97, 742-5, 269, 283, 321, 342, 346, and 15-1). These poles require replacement as part of a regular maintenance program to ensure continued safe and reliable electric service. As depicted on Figures 1 through 5, three of these poles are located within the Pine Barrens Compatible Growth Area and eight of these poles are located within the Core Preservation Area.

Pole replacement details are provided on Table 1. All existing poles will be replaced with new poles that will range from approximately 2 to 10 feet taller than the poles they are replacing, with pole diameter increases of less than 10 inches. Existing and replaced poles are composed of wood and there will be no changes to pole top configurations or infrastructure. Poles will be replaced within approximately 5 feet from their current locations. Photos of the existing pole locations are provided in Attachment 1.

The majority of poles can be accessed directly from paved or gravel roadways, or from the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) right-of-way. Limited vegetation removal and/or trimming will be required to access and complete replacement activities, as follows:

- Pole # 240 is located in a mowed roadside area and will not require any vegetation removal or trimming.

- Four pole replacements (Pole #s 226, 269, 283, and 15-1) will require minor disturbance (approximate 5 foot by 5 foot areas) to low-lying herbaceous vegetation. No trees will be removed or trimmed. No shrubs will be removed.
- Four pole locations (Pole #s 25, 342, 346, and 742.5) will require trimming of tree branches and the potential disturbance for a maximum of a 5 foot by 5 foot area to low-lying herbaceous vegetation.
- Two pole locations (Pole #s 97 and 321) will require clearing of low-lying herbaceous vegetation and shrubs and minor tree trimming within an approximate 5 foot by 15 foot area in order for maintenance vehicles to access the transmission poles.

All disturbed work areas will be reseeded with a native seed mix. The maintenance paths at Pole #s 97 and 321 will be re-vegetated with native species including but not limited to native grass mix, low-bush blueberry, northern bayberry (shrub), and scarlet oak.

Based on a review of ECL 57-0107 (13), the project would be classified as one or more of the following, and therefore, would not constitute development:

- (i) Public improvements undertaken for the health, safety, or welfare of the public. Such public improvements shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of this article, and shall include, but not be limited to, maintenance of an existing road or railroad track;
- (ii) work by any utility not involving substantial engineering redesign for the purpose of inspection, maintenance or renewal on established utility rights-of-way or the likes, and any work pertaining to water supply for the residents of Suffolk county;
- (vi) Work by a utility performed for the purpose of public health, safety, or welfare and consistent with the goals and objectives of this article.

Please let us know if you require additional information or have additional questions regarding this work.

Sincerely,



Emily Hepding  
Senior Environmental Science and Planning Analyst



June 26, 2024

Emily Hepding  
Senior Environmental Science and Planning Analyst  
PSEG Long Island  
999 Stewart Avenue  
Bethpage, New York 11714

**RE: PSEG Transmission Pole Replacements – 11 Poles**  
Central Pine Barrens Compatible Growth Area and Core Preservation Area

Dear Ms. Hepding:

On May 21, 2024, the Central Pine Barrens Commission received materials on the referenced proposal. The submission included a letter, maps and photographs of pole replacement locations in the hamlets of Rocky Point, East Shoreham, Brookhaven, Shirley, Northampton, Westhampton and Manorville.

The Proposed Action involves the replacement of a total of 11 utility poles including eight in the Core Preservation Area and three in the Compatible Growth Area.

Existing and new poles are timber and will range in height from 30 to 75 feet. The height of the poles will change no more than 10 feet above present height and will not increase more than 10 inches in diameter.

The poles are located in utility corridors or roadside right of way. The referral material states some shrubs may be removed and trees will be limbed for access and to complete replacement activities. Replanting with native grasses, shrubs and trees will occur. The activity is part of the utility's capital projects/programs and "everyday pole replacement projects," as opposed to the PowerOn group focusing on storm hardening projects.

As proposed, the activity appears to constitute "non-development" pursuant to New York State Environmental Conservation Law Article 57 Section 57-0107.13(ii) which states, "Work by any utility not involving substantial engineering redesign for the purpose of inspection, maintenance or renewal on established utility rights of way or the likes,"... No further review from this office is required.

If the proposed activity changes, including the need to remove trees, please notify this office and forward the updated information for Commission review prior to implementation as the revised project may constitute development.

It is encouraged that, where possible, the new pole heights remain within the heights of surrounding trees to maintain the character of the Core and CGA.

Thank you for your attention, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (631) 218-1192.

Sincerely,

Tara Murphy, Environmental Planner  
On behalf of Julie Hargrave, Policy and Planning Manager  
cc: Judith Jakobsen, Executive Director  
John C. Milazzo, Counsel

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