



Bridgehampton to Buell New 69kV Underground Cable Project


Final Environmental Impact Statement

Presented by: Jason Horowitz, *Assistant General Counsel*

November 13, 2024



Discussion Topics

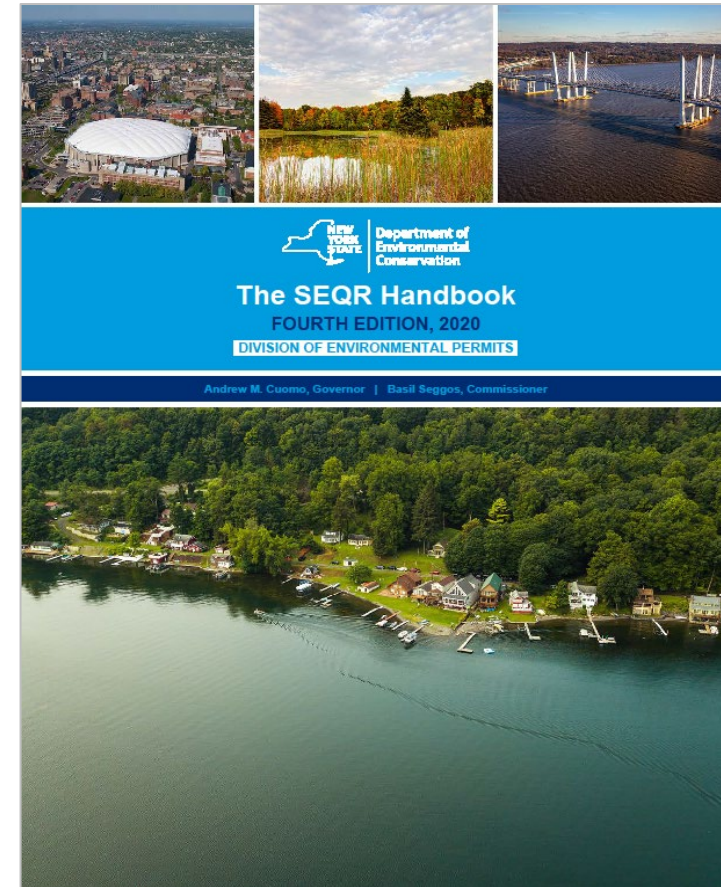
 SEQRA Overview and the Proposed Action

 Next Steps

SEQRA Overview and the Proposed Action

SEQRA Overview

- New York’s State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) establishes a process to systematically consider environmental factors early in the planning stages of actions that are directly undertaken, funded, or approved by local, regional, and state agencies.
- LIPA as a New York State Authority is subject to SEQRA.
- Implementing regulations are 6 NYCRR Part 617.



View the full SEQR handbook [here](#)

The Proposed Action

Project Scope and Need

- Installation of a new underground 69kV cable from the Bridgehampton Substation to the Buell Substation (approximately 7.6 miles).
- Cable installed beneath existing paved roadways.
- Construction methods:
 - Open Trench
 - Horizontal Directional Drill
 - 15 Manholes
 - 1 Long Island Rail Road Crossing

Addresses load growth projection of 2% per year for the next 10 years

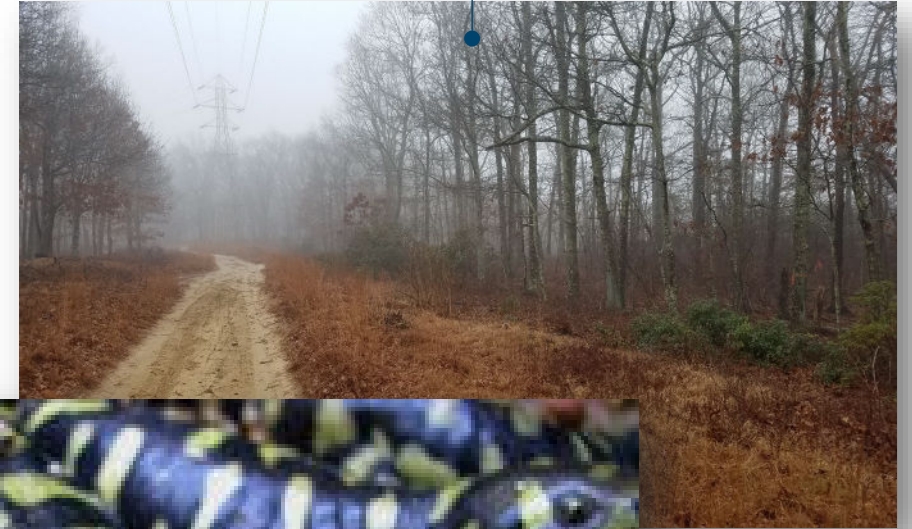
Route Overview



SEQRA Overview

- The project was initially proposed as a 5.2 mile underground route through LIPA's existing overhead right of way.
- An initial review of the project determined the potential for "significant adverse environmental impacts" requiring the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- Over 340 public comments were received at the DEIS public hearings as well as during the public comment period.
- After further evaluation, the route was revised to a version of the "northerly" alternative that was reflected in the DEIS.
- The current route is referred to as the *Preferred Alternative*.

LIPA Right-of-Way



Endangered Species Tiger Salamander

SEQRA Documents

April 6, 2021

May 4, 2021

July 7, 2021

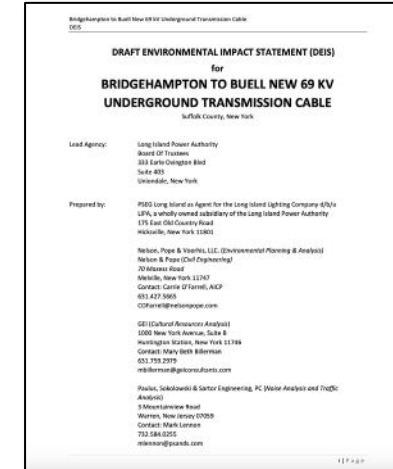
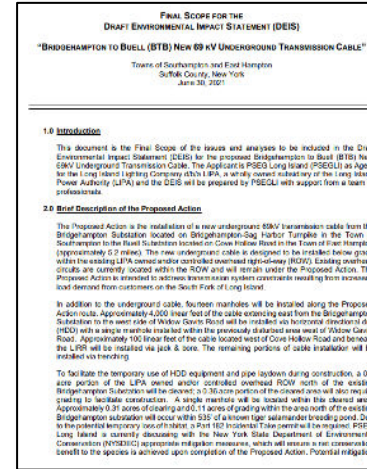
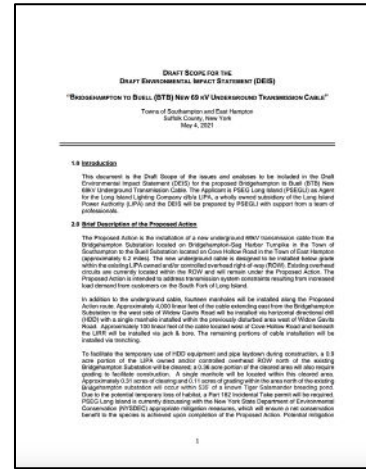
May 18, 2022

Positive Declaration Issued

Draft Scope Issued

Final Scope Issued

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) accepted



Summary of the Final Environmental Impact Statement

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>Project Description</p>	<p>Impact Analysis</p>	<p>Response to Public Comment on the DEIS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose, Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routing, Design, Layout, Need, Objective, Benefits, Existing Conditions, Permits and Approvals Required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental, Cultural Resources, Open Space and Recreation, Critical Environmental Areas, Noise, Traffic, Cumulative Impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments received during the public review of the DEIS for the Proposed Action have been categorized by topic



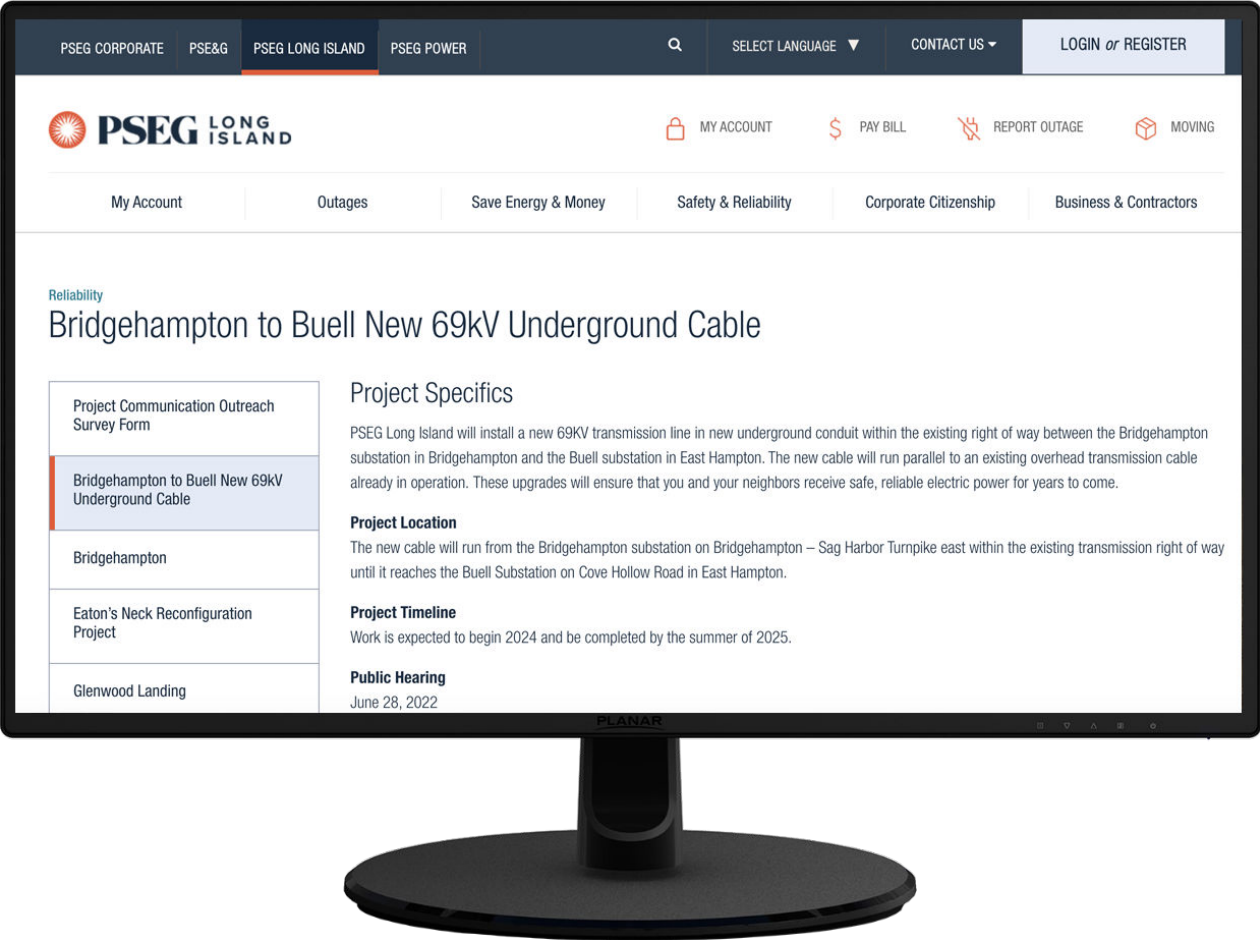
Next Steps

Next Steps



PSEG Long Island Project Page

[Visit PSEG Long Island's Project Page](#)



Questions?

Jason Horowitz
Assistant General Counsel

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FOR CONSIDERATION

November 13, 2024

TO: The Board of Trustees

FROM: John Rhodes

SUBJECT: Consideration of Acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bridgehampton to Buell Underground 69kV Cable Project

Requested Action

The Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Long Island Power Authority (“LIPA”) is requested to adopt a resolution accepting the Final Environmental Impact Statement (“FEIS”) in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) for the Bridgehampton to Buell Underground 69kV Cable Project (the “Proposed Action”), which resolution is attached hereto as **Exhibit “A”**.

Background

PSEG Long Island has proposed to install a new underground 69kV transmission cable from the Bridgehampton Substation located on Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike in the Town of Southampton to the Buell Substation located on Cove Hollow Road in the Town of East Hampton. The original route and associated SEQRA documents, including the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”), evaluated a 5.2-mile underground cable within the existing LIPA right-of-way (“ROW”). Due to the location of the existing ROW within the Long Pond Greenbelt, an ecologically significant area, LIPA, serving as Lead Agency pursuant to SEQRA, determined the Proposed Action may have significant adverse effects on the environment and issued a [Positive Declaration](#), which required the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”). In advance of the DEIS, in accordance with SEQRA, LIPA issued a Draft Scope, which was published for public comment on May 12, 2021. On June 30, 2021, the [Final Scope](#) for the Proposed Action was issued, incorporating all public comments received. The scoping documents functioned as the table of contents for the impacts and issues studied in the DEIS.

The Board accepted the DEIS at its meeting on May 18, 2022. Thereafter, PSEG Long Island conducted a public hearing on the DEIS to solicit comments on the proposed construction and route. PSEG Long Island received over 340 comments. Many of the comments expressed concern about potential adverse environmental impacts associated with installing the underground cable within the Long Pond Greenbelt and other sensitive areas. PSEG Long Island took into consideration these comments, other concerns, and the potential for proposed alternatives considered in the DEIS to mitigate or avoid those impacts and subsequently redesigned the underground cable route to proceed north from the Bridgehampton Substation through the existing roadway rights-of-way before turning southeast to the Buell substation. A version of the new route was reviewed as Alternative 2 in the DEIS (the Northerly Underground Circuit alternative). This new route is now known as the Preferred Alternative in the FEIS.

The route map is more particularly shown as Figure 1 within the FEIS and attached to this memorandum as **Exhibit “B”**. The route is approximately 7.6 miles and no longer runs through the Long Pond Greenbelt. A version of the new route was reviewed in detail as an alternative in the DEIS as the Northerly Underground Circuit alternative. This route is now known as the Preferred Alternative in the FEIS.

Discussion

As required by SEQRA, the FEIS addresses all substantive comments provided by the public, involved agencies, and other interested parties that participated at the DEIS hearing and in writing through the end of the DEIS review comment period. In addition, the FEIS also addresses all substantive comments provided by the public, involved agencies, and other interested parties that were provided up until the submittal of the FEIS. Also, as provided for in SEQRA, the FEIS incorporates by reference the DEIS, so that the combination of these two documents constitutes the entire Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) for the Preferred Alternative (which is now the “proposed action” for SEQRA purposes).

Preparation of the FEIS is the penultimate step in the SEQRA process and provides the foundation for the Lead Agency to prepare its SEQRA Findings Statement. Each of the other involved agencies, including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Suffolk County Planning and the Environment, Town of East Hampton, Town of Southampton, Village of Sag Harbor, New York State Department of Transportation, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, and the Metropolitan Transit Authority, having discretionary approval authority will have to prepare its own Findings Statement upon completion of the FEIS. The FEIS also provides involved/interested agencies and the public with:

- descriptive information about the Preferred Alternative;
- documentation of the SEQRA process and consistency of the review conducted by the Lead Agency with that process;
- a summary of comments received during the public review period for the DEIS;
- the source and manner of delivery of each comment (e.g., verbal comments during the hearing, letters, emails, etc.);
- responses to all substantive comments received during the public comment period for the DEIS;
- any necessary corrections, amendments, or modifications to the DEIS;
- additional analyses of the potential environmental effects of the Preferred Alternative to augment the information in the DEIS and provide the lead and involved agencies with further basis for decision-making; and
- elaboration on the strategies and techniques identified for mitigating the anticipated impacts of the Preferred Alternative.

After adoption of the resolution, as set forth in **Exhibit “A”**, SEQRA requires that a notice be published in the Environmental News Bulletin (“ENB”), with copies of the FEIS available to the involved agencies and interested parties. The FEIS will also be available on LIPA’s website through the PSEG Long Island project page located [here](#). After a 10-day period, in accordance with SEQRA, the Board can consider a Findings Statement for the Proposed Action. It is anticipated that the Findings Statement will be brought to the Board at its December meeting.

Recommendation

Based upon the foregoing, it is recommended that the Trustees adopt the resolution in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"**.

Attachments

Exhibit "A" Resolution

Exhibit "B" Route Map

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE BRIDGEHAMPTON TO BUELL UNDERGROUND 69KV CABLE PROJECT

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2021, LIPA determined that the proposed installation of an underground 69kV transmission cable between the Bridgehampton and Buell substations (the “Proposed Action”) had the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts and issued a Positive Declaration, in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) has been prepared to identify, discuss, and evaluate Proposed Action’s potential significant adverse environmental impacts and associated proposed mitigation, which DEIS was accepted by the Board in May 2022; and

WHEREAS, the original route and associated SEQRA documents, including the DEIS, evaluated a 5.2-mile underground cable within the existing LIPA right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, PSEG Long Island conducted a public hearing on the DEIS to solicit comments on the proposed construction and route. PSEG Long Island received over 340 comments. Many of the comments expressed concern about the potential adverse environmental impacts associated with installing the underground cable within the Long Pond Greenbelt and other sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, PSEG Long Island took into consideration these comments, other concerns, and the potential for proposed alternatives considered in the DEIS to mitigate or avoid those impacts and subsequently redesigned the underground cable route to proceed north from the Bridgehampton Substation through the existing roadway rights-of-way before turning southeast to the Buell substation , which redesigned route is approximately 7.6 miles and no longer runs through the Long Pond Greenbelt; and

WHEREAS, a version of the new route was reviewed in detail as an alternative in the DEIS as the Northerly Underground Circuit alternative and is now known as the Preferred Alternative in the FEIS; and

WHEREAS, as required by SEQRA, the FEIS addresses all substantive comments provided by the public, involved agencies, and other interested parties at the DEIS hearing and in writing through the end of the DEIS review comment period. In addition, the FEIS also addresses all substantive comments provided by the public, involved agencies, and other interested parties that were provided up until the submittal of the FEIS.

WHEREAS, as provided for in SEQRA, the FEIS incorporates by reference the DEIS, so that the combination of these two documents constitutes the entire Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that having reviewed the FEIS, LIPA hereby accepts the FEIS as complete pursuant to SEQRA 6 NYCRR 617.9; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby directs the filing of the applicable notice of the FEIS and distribution of copies of the FEIS in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby directs LIPA and PSEG Long Island staff to complete the Findings Statement for the Proposed Action in accordance with SEQRA.

Dated: November 13, 2024



Legend

- Open Trench
- HDD
- Jack & Bore
- Manhole Vault Locations
- Town Boundaries
- Village Boundaries

FIGURE 1
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE MAP
BRIDGEHAMPTON TO BUELL NEW 69KV UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION CABLE
 Sources: NYS Orthoimagery, 2023; Suffolk County GIS, 2024