



PSEG/HDD ACTION ALERT

Update

Thank you to all who wrote letters and attended the Suffolk County legislature's meeting on Tuesday. Because of you, Resolution 1334 passed! And thanks to legislator Bridget Fleming for her hard work on the Greenbelt's behalf.

This is a step forward, but no guarantee that PSEG will be stopped. We need to fight on! Even harder. And that means we must organize a large and convincing turnout at the public meeting with PSEG on Tuesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m. at LTV Studios, 75 Industrial Road, Wainscott, to oppose HDD drilling through the Long Pond Greenbelt.

PSEG's proposal to drill an underground 69kv transmission cable along the existing LIPA easement east of the Bridgehampton Turnpike must be stopped. The horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will pass between Long Pond, Deer Drink and Crooked Pond, in the very heart of the greenbelt. PSEG has just released to the public the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to justify this route and to explain how they intend to remediate the endangered Eastern tiger salamander habitat and vernal pond through which they will be drilling.

West of the Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike, in the Great Swamp complex, one acre of land will be cleared to stage the needed HDD equipment, disrupting another vernal pond and wetland, preserved with Community Preservation Funds. PSEG anticipates that 15,000 gallons of liquid waste/slurry will be generated each day. According to the DEIS, there may be unexpected occurrences or frac-outs where slurry is released into the system of the coastal plain ponds and our aquifer. There is no information available regarding the proposed slurry lubricant's ecotoxicity. Further, no chemical safety assessment has been performed for the mixture. There is also concern about drilling through the old dump site and what that might release.

The Long Pond Greenbelt is one of the most ecologically diverse areas in New York State and is supposed to be a protected natural habitat.

If there is any chance at all of an unexpected occurrence, should the risks posed by HDD be taken? What does it even mean to be a nature preserve if a utility company can drill through it? Moreover, PSEG does not need to use the route through the Greenbelt and threaten its rare, irreplaceable coastal plain pond ecosystem. The DEIS presents an alternative route, sending the underground cable south along the Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike and east along Montauk Highway. Yes, it will cost more, but that's the surest way to protect the Long Pond Greenbelt, a coastal plains pond ecosystem that supports one of the highest concentrations of rare flora and fauna in New York State and on whose preservation Southampton Town, Suffolk County, and the Nature Conservancy have spent millions and millions to preserve over the past fifty years!

***Actions you can take right now.
Learn. Write. Come to the public meeting.***

Learn! The LIPA easements were established long before zoning laws and land-use regulations were adopted to protect the environment. (To clarify, the easements are granted to LIPA. PSEG is the company it hired in 2012 to operate its electric infrastructure and the entity that developed the DEIS.) These old easements allowed for above-ground transmission lines but carried no underground rights. In order to proceed with this project, LIPA must acquire such rights from landowners along the right-of-way. These landowners include Southampton Town and Suffolk County, who have the ability to withhold underground rights.

To learn what the PSEG Bridgehampton-To-Buell proposal entails, we refer you to the DEIS online, particularly its Executive Summary, which provides an overview of the project and what a threat it is to the Long Pond Greenbelt: <https://www.psegliny.com/reliability/bridgetobuell>.

Write!

- Southampton Supervisor Jay Schneiderman and the Town Board: jschneiderman@southamptontownny.gov,
- Suffolk County legislators: clerk.legislature@suffolkcountyny.gov
- NYS Assemblyman Fred Thiele: thielef@nyassembly.gov
- Ask them to protect the Long Pond Greenbelt and require PSEG to use the alternative route.

Show up!

It's vital we have a strong presence at the public hearing on the PSEG Bridgehampton-to-Buell project.

**Tuesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m.
LTV Studios, 75 Industrial Road, Wainscott**

***You can help protect the Long Pond Greenbelt.
Please attend the meeting!***

**ACT NOW
PROTECT
THE
GREENBELT**