

Town Board
VIVIANA L. RUSSELL
PETER J. ZUCKERMAN
ANGELO P. FERRARA
ANNA M. KAPLAN
LEE R. SEEMAN
DINA M. DE GIORGIO

Town Clerk
WAYNE H. WINK, JR.

Receiver of Taxes
CHARLES BERMAN

TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

TOWN HALL
220 PLANDOME ROAD
MANHASSET, NY 11030
(516) 869-6311
FAX (516) 627-4204



Supervisor
JUDI BOSWORTH

Dear Neighbor,

I am keenly aware that many of you have questions and concerns about the PSEG-LI's Electric Reliability Improvements Project in the Town of North Hempstead. I want you to know that I am also extremely concerned about this project and the process by which it has moved forward. **PSEG-LI's main concern** has been the urgency of enhancing its distribution system in time for summer demand. **My main concerns** have been that the public has been shut out of the discussion until now, we should be exploring alternatives to the 80-foot poles, and we need to protect our trees.

I hope that by answering some of your questions and providing you with some vital information, we can find a resolution that maintains the esthetic beauty of our Town, while also providing the power we need.

A brief timeline

In January 2014, PSEG-LI Long Island took over for Keyspan and inherited the Port Washington - Great Neck Overhead Transmission project which was designed to meet the growing power needs of this area and to improve the reliability of electric service. The most disturbing aspect of the project for many residents are the unsightly, 80-foot high utility poles, that PSEG-LI says they need in order to support the new power lines.

How many poles are on Town of North Hempstead roads?

The entire project consists of 210 poles, 23 of them on Town of North Hempstead roads, with the remainder of the poles being installed along State and County roads. Town roads include South Bayles, Davis and South streets in Port Washington and along Maple Street in Manhasset (alongside Manhasset Valley Park).

Who issued Town permits?

The Town of North Hempstead Highway Superintendent issued two permits in November 2013, prior to my taking office in January. The permits covered installation of 23 poles on North Hempstead roads. The project has 210 poles in total, 90% of which are on State or County roads.

What are you doing as Supervisor to address this?

When this project was still in the planning stages two years ago, it was not brought to the community or to elected leaders for discussion and input. I found out about the project in January after I took office. When the poles started going up I was literally taken by surprise, just as most of you were. I immediately contacted PSEG-LI and met and spoke with them several times, during which time I was able to secure some concessions. In addition, at my insistence, PSEG-LI President, Dave Daly, and other PSEG-LI representatives finally agreed to come to Port Washington on March 24 for a community forum and to meet with residents.

- **Independent Consultant** -- At our next Town Board meeting, on April 1, Councilwoman Dina De Giorgio and I will recommend to our colleagues that the Town of North Hempstead engage the services of an independent outside consulting engineer, to advise the Town on the feasibility of burying the wires and to work with PSEG-LI to see if we can come up with a plan.
- **Seek Federal dollars** -- There are literally billions of dollars in federal resources allocated for infrastructure improvements post-Superstorm Sandy. On April 2, I will be traveling to Washington to meet with our federal representatives to ask them to allocate some of these funds to address infrastructure needs in our Town, including burying at least some parts of the electric transmission system, if feasible. It seems to me that burying the wires is something that could qualify for this type of federal aid and we intend to make a strong case for that next week in Washington.
- **Trees replaced** -- I have a commitment from PSEG-LI that every tree taken down or damaged will be replaced and that a significant number of new trees will be planted, giving the community a “net gain” of trees on the affected streets. The Town’s arborist is already working with PSEG-LI staff to assist them in fulfilling their commitments regarding trees. At least one “tour,” to establish a baseline of the work to be done, has already occurred. Our goal is to have planted as many “wire friendly” trees as possible, eventually, to create an attractive tree canopy under the wires.
- **ADA Compliance** -- PSEG-LI has agreed that all the new poles will be erected in compliance with the ADA – the “Americans with Disabilities Act” – so that the disabled and seniors with wheelchairs and walkers, and caretakers with carriages and strollers, will be able to navigate our local streets and crosswalks without being blocked by the poles.

Why can't the electrical lines be buried underground?

They can, according to PSEG-LI, but the estimated cost –4 to 6 million dollars per mile -- would have to be paid for by the ratepayers. The total bill would be approximately \$30 million if the wires were buried for the entire project. The Town will be hiring an independent consultant to evaluate whether this estimated cost is reasonable.

Can the Town pay for it?

We will explore the feasibility and cost of burying the wires on the Town of North Hempstead roads. Rather than have the Town taxpayers absorb the cost, I will see if we can obtain federal funding for this purpose. I will also work collaboratively with the State, County, and local villages, who own most of the roadways and sidewalks where the poles are being placed, to find funds for moving wires underground.

Why don't you stop the project?

PSEG-LI and its plans to provide electricity are governed by the State through LIPA and through the Public Service Commission. The Town does not have authority to regulate PSEG-LI.

Can't you just revoke the permits?

The Town Highway Supervisor issues permits based on the impact on roadway and sidewalk traffic. Permits cannot be revoked for reasons not related to traffic, such as our view that the utility should put the lines underground or make other plans to provide electricity. As a practical matter, the poles are already installed, and revoking the Town permits would have no impact on 90% of the poles, which do not require Town permits since they are not going on Town roads.

Who regulates PSEG-LI?

LIPA and the New York State Public Service Commission have oversight over PSEG-LI.

I heard that these poles were put up in East Hampton, too. What is PSEG-LI doing there?

PSEG-LI has put similarly sized poles in East Hampton. East Hampton residents have similar concerns and recently met with PSEG-LI representatives. PSEG-LI stated it would make all accommodations for North Hempstead that were offered to East Hampton, including that it would publicly commit to bury the lines after Town and Village residents agree to pay all the costs.

How can I find out what's going on with the poles?

We will continue to update our residents and keep you informed about the Town's efforts on our website, Facebook page and at Town Board meetings. In addition, we communicate through local media outlets in press releases (also available on our website) and interviews.

I missed the meeting, how can I find out what was said?

PSEG-LI made a PowerPoint describing the project and we have included a link to it for your information and a copy of my remarks from that night.

If you have any questions that were not answered here, please email me at bosworthj@northhempsteadny.gov.

[Click here](#) for the PowerPoint Presentation.

[Click here](#) to read Judi Bosworth's speech from the meeting.