

Honorable Ralph Suozzi  
Chairman  
Long Island Power Authority  
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY

RE: Placement of lines underground

Dear Chairman Suozzi:

One of the most important issues facing both the Long Island Power Authority and Public Service Electric & Gas at the moment is the need to review the opportunity to place electric power lines underground in those communities which would prefer that option. The Long Island Builders Institute, the largest residential home building trade association in New York State, wishes to express its great interest in this issue and urges the Long Island Power Authority and PSE&G to provide new procedures to review and encourage that option before a final decision on location is made.

During the past few years, as this issue has percolated in first Southampton and now East Hampton and Port Washington, the review of whether to put the new power lines underground and who would pay for such a location, has been only discussed after a decision has been made to allow such lines to be located above ground on new poles. This has resulted in a very contentious and dramatic discussion, rather than the informed and contemplative review which would be applicable for this issue. It is our firm belief that the option of underground power lines should be included within the permitting process for each and every power line upgrade or relocation across Long Island and that each community must be given, up front, that option and the cost implications to the residents of each community at the beginning of the review process. While we totally agree that the residents of each community should be financially responsible for the costs of underground location, such numbers should be part and parcel of the up-front discussion on this issue. The possible loss of property values and the aesthetics of each community require nothing less than a sensible review, with the appropriate time and studies involved.

With regard to the specific communities involved in very contentious discussions at the moment, it is essential that each community review take place now and not after the project is finished. It would be very appropriate for each project to stand down at the moment and allow each community and LIPA and PSE&G to take a moment and allow for a reasonable review, understanding that time is of the essence to get the projects finished. The cost of undoing a finished project is obviously going to be higher than the cost of modifying an unfinished project and cost will be a factor in these discussions, especially as each community must pay for their decision on whether to go underground.

The issue of the placement of high tension and other types of power lines all across Long Island has become and will continue to be a very contentious issue. Many years ago, many of our municipalities decided to require all new

underground lines going to and from homes to be placed underground in new subdivisions. The placement of existing and upgraded lines deserves nothing less than the same type of review at the beginning of the process. The Long Island Builders Institute is very hopeful that the Long Island Power Authority and PSE&G will agree to make provide a much needed change in procedures and ensure that the review of this issue in each community takes place at the beginning rather than the middle or end of the permit process.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Mitchell H. Pally  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Board of Trustees of LIPA  
David Daly, PSE&G of Long Island  
Long Island State Legislative Delegation