

**State Environmental Quality Review Act  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
----- 2015**

**Notice of Determination of Non-Significance**

This notice is issued pursuant to Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining thereto.

The Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA), as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**LEAD AGENCY:** Suffolk County Water Authority  
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(631) 563-0202  
Contact: Joseph M. Pokorny, Deputy CEO for Operations

**TITLE OF ACTION:** Emergency Power Generator Project

**SEQRA STATUS:** Unlisted

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:**

SCWA proposes to install emergency back up generators at 52 SCWA well field and pump stations (the Project). The generators will be used on an emergency basis to provide energy to SCWA well field and pump stations during power outages.

SCWA is submitting an application to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation for grant funding to pay, on a reimbursement basis, 25% of the Project's costs and for a no interest loan to be used to pay for the remaining 75% of the Project's costs. SCWA will repay the loan over a period of time not to exceed the Project's period of probable life.

SCWA will install one emergency backup generator at each of 14 well field and pump stations that currently do not have generators. The remaining 38 well field and pump stations will receive replacement emergency back up generators. The old generators will be removed from service. Despite being one submission for EFC funding purposes, these two components are functionally independent from each other and are unrelated.

Installation of generators at the 14 well field and pump stations currently without emergency generator back up capacity is being classified as a Type I Action under the State

Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and is designated the “Action.” Replacing generators at the remaining 38 well field and pump stations is defined as a Type II Action under SEQRA and as such does not require a SEQRA review. SCWA must obtain a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Tidal Wetlands Permit prior to installing a generator at its Sandy Walk, Dunewood, Fire Island well field and pump station which does not have a backup generator.

SCWA has prepared 14 Parts I and II of the Long Environmental Assessment Form (LEAF) for the Action. Each LEAF analyzes the environmental impact, if any, of installing an emergency generator at each of the 14 well field and pump stations currently without a back up generator.

**LOCATION:**

Fourteen Public Water Supply Well Field and Pump Stations. SCWA will install diesel powered generators at fourteen Public Water Supply Well Fields located on at Edison Drive in Montauk in the Town of East Hampton; at Fairmount Drive in Medford in the Town of Brookhaven; at Fresh Pond Road in Amagansett in the Town of East Hampton; at Kings Park Road in Commack in the Town of Smithtown; at Lumber Lane in Bridgehampton in the Town of Southampton; Mayfair Drive in Cold Spring Harbor in the Town of Huntington; at New Mill Road in Smithtown in the Town of Smithtown; at Old North Road in Southold in the Town of Southold; at Pierson Street in Nesconset in the Town of Smithtown; at Radio Avenue in Miller Place in the Town of Brookhaven; at Sandy Walk in Dunewood in the Town of Islip; at Seatuck Avenue in Eastport in the Town of Brookhaven; at Sunken Meadow in Kings Park in the Town of Smithtown; and West Prospect Street in Southampton in the Village of Southampton as more particularly described in the Long Environmental Assessment Forms completed for this Action.

**NOTICE OF ACTION:**

SCWA published a Notice of Completion of Draft Negative Declaration in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on December 10, 2014 and in Newsday, a local newspaper of general circulation in Suffolk County on December 11, 2014. A copy of each LEAF, Parts 1 and 2 and the Draft Negative Declaration were posted on the SCWA’s website from December 10, 2014 to January 2, 2015.

**COORDINATION:**

SCWA coordinated its review of the Action by letters dated November 25, 2014 to the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation, Health and State and the Environmental Facilities Corporation. No objections were raised to SCWA declaring itself Lead Agent. On \_\_\_\_\_, SCWA declared itself Lead Agent.

**REASONS SUPPORTING THIS DETERMINATION:**

The SCWA has determined that the Action will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment. This determination was made by comparing the impacts that are anticipated to occur from implementing the Action against the criteria contained in 6 New York Code Rules and Regulations Section 617.7(c).

No adverse environmental impacts will occur to existing air quality, ground or surface water quality or quantity, traffic or noise levels. The Action does not require an air quality permit. Ground and surface water quality and quantity will not be affected because the Action will not utilize either resource. Fuel for the generators will be stored within the shelter and the tanks storing the fuel will be in accordance with Suffolk County Department of Health Services specifications. The amount of fuel stored is below the threshold at which a bulk petroleum permit would be required. While operating, at a distance of 100 feet, the decibel level produced by the generators will be 57 db. The noise level will decrease as the distance from the generator increases. Such noise will be produced intermittently while the generators are use during an emergency and during their 1-2 hour monthly testing period. Extra sound deadening material will be added to the generators at Sandy Walk and Pierson Avenue to further reduce the audible noise level because of their proximity to adjoining residential uses.

Although the generator at the Sandy Walk well field and pump station will be located within 300 feet of a regulated tidal wetland no significant adverse impact to the wetland is anticipated. The generator will be more than 100 feet from the wetland and will be landward of the existing buildings on the site. In addition, there will be minimal land disturbance. The generator will be located on a wooden platform approximately 4 feet 2 inches by 8 foot 6 inches. A deck will surround the platform. In total, the total area covered by the generator and its platform will be 121 square feet. No permanent structures will be installed on the site, rather the platform will be installed on wooden piers without concrete footings. Operation of the generator will not create septage or increase runoff. Construction activities will be occur a distance of more than 200 feet southerly from the shoreline. There is residential development on both sides of the Sandy Walk parcel and there are numerous residential uses located northerly - closer to the shoreline - on the adjacent parcels than the proposed location of the generator on the Sandy Walk parcel.

No increase in solid waste production or substantial increase in potential for erosion, flooding, leaching or drainage problems will occur as a result of the proposed Action. None of the generators will be installed in previously disturbed areas that contained maintained landscaping. There will be limited clearing of trees and associated understory at the Mayfair Drive, New Mill Lane, Pierson Street, Seatuck Avenue and West Prospect Street well field and pump stations. The Action will not require significant grading activities and therefore will not increase the potential for erosion, flooding, leaching or drainage problems. No solid waste, beyond that customary to a construction project, will be produced by the Action.

The New York Natural Heritage Program, by letter dated November 14, 2014, informed SCWA that the NHP's database has no records of rare or state-listed animals or plants, or significant natural communities, at any of the 14 well field sites. The Action does not involve the removal or destruction of large quantities of vegetation or fauna, or the substantial interference with the

movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, impacts on significant habitat areas, substantial adverse impacts on a threatened or endangered species of animal or plant, or the habitat of such a species, or other significant adverse impacts to natural resources. Therefore, no adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the proposed Action.

While four of the sites, Radio Avenue, Seatuck Avenue, Lumber Lane, and Fresh Pond Avenue are within designated Critical Environmental Areas (CEA) no adverse impacts will occur on a CEAs as a result of the proposed Action for the reasons set forth in this Negative Declaration.

The proposed Action will not result in the material conflict with a community's current plans or goals as officially approved or adopted. Each generator will be installed at an existing well field.

The Action will not result in the impairment of the character or quality of important architectural or aesthetic resources or of existing community or neighborhood character. According to correspondence dated November 12, 2014 from the Division for Historic Preservation, the “Action will have no impact on archaeological and/or historic resources listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.”

No major change in the use of either the quantity or type of energy consumed on site will occur under the proposed Action.

No adverse impacts on human health will occur as a result of the proposed Action.

The Action site is not in an agricultural district or adjacent to preserved open space. No change in the use of existing recreational resources will occur as a result of the proposed Action. No adverse impacts or substantial change in the use or intensity of use of land including agricultural, open space or recreational resources, or in its capacity to support existing uses will occur under the proposed Action.

The proposed Action will not encourage or attract a large number of people to the Action site for more than a few days, compared to the number of people that would come to the site absent the proposed action.

No adverse impacts will result from the creation of a material demand for other actions that will result in a consequence that will affect one of the impacts previously discussed. The Action will not have any growth inducing impact.

No adverse cumulative impacts from two or more of the Action elements when considered together will result in a substantial adverse impact on the environment.

There are no reasonably related long-term, short-term, direct, indirect and cumulative impact included in any SCWA long-range plan of which the Action is a part, are likely to be undertaken as a result of the Action or are dependent on the Action.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

To mitigate noise impacts, the generators will be wholly enclosed within sound attenuating shelters to reduce audible noise levels. Extra sound deadening materials will be added to the shelters of the generators at Sandy Walk and Pierson Avenue because of their proximity to adjoining residential uses. To mitigate the potential for fuel leaks, fuel for the generators shall be stored within an Suffolk County Sanitary Code Article 12 compliant containment tank built within each shelter. Moreover, to further reduce the potential of fuel spills or overfill events, each shelter will have overfill alarm/leak detection system. No activity related to the Action will occur on the Sandy Walk well field and pump station until the Tidal Wetlands permit is issued.

For Further Information:

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