

PSEG LONG ISLAND LLC
on Behalf of and as Agent for the
LONG ISLAND LIGHTING COMPANY d/b/a LIPA

Western Nassau Transmission Project

EM&CP – APPENDIX E

WNTP Invasive Species Management Plan

Appendix E: WNTP Invasive Species Management Plan

Introduction

Invasive species are defined in Section 9-1703(10) of the Environmental Conservation Law as a species that is: (a) non-native to the ecosystem under consideration; and, (b) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. The overall goal of invasive species management is to control the continued spread of invasive species within and outside the Project area.

This Invasive Species Management Plan has been prepared to be compliance with 6 NYCRR Part 575. The presence of invasive plant and animal species were documented along the Project route and in the vicinity of the Project during field reconnaissance in 2017.

Based on the location of the Project primarily within existing public roadway ROWs, interaction with invasive plant species will be limited to the few areas where the Project centerline deviates from the roadway, that are subject to tree clearing or to vegetation removal. Tree clearing and vegetation removal is detailed within the WNTP Tree Management Plan and will be avoided to the extent practicable.

The invasive species documented by the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) within the ROW or the immediate vicinity of the Project are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Invasive species within the ROW or immediate vicinity

Location	ID	Scientific Name	Common Name	Observed
At the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Stewart Avenue in Hempstead	NY-16657	<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	1/1/1918
	NY-15857	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. Johnswort; St. John's wort	8/8/1901
	NY-16266	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow Sweetclover	6/18/1897
	NY-16679	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Sweet Cherry	1/1/1899
	NY-17316	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein, Common mullein	7/13/1902
	NY-17317	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein, Common mullein	7/6/1902
	NY-15281	<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>	Short-fringe Starthistle, Knapweed, Tyrol knapweed	8/22/1902
	NY-15440	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	9/1/1897

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), which is also a NYSDEC-defined invasive species, was identified during Project tree surveys. Sixty-three individual Norway maple were inventoried along the Project ROW. Further, while only one ash tree (host to the invasive Emerald ash borer) was identified during the tree inventory, Norway maple and sugar maple (preferred host trees of the Asian long-horned beetle) are abundant along the Project ROW.

Best Management Practices

Controlling the introduction and spread of the invasive species identified will be achieved through the implementation of the following measures:

1. All vehicles, equipment and materials will be inspected for and cleaned, as necessary, of any visible soils, vegetation and debris before bringing them into the Project area.
2. Soil disturbance will be minimized by reducing work areas to the smallest size practical.
3. Bare soils will be revegetated as soon as practical to minimize possible establishment of invasive species.
4. All field management personnel as well as project contractors will be trained and educated in the identification of invasive species, implementing best management practices, and cleaning methods to prevent and/or control the transport of invasive species throughout and off the project site.
5. Environmental Monitor(s) will be able to recognize all pertinent invasive species in 6 NYCRR Part 525 and will be aware of the areas of invasive species identified within the ROW and work places.
6. In particular, the Environmental Monitor(s) shall be trained to identify the Asian Longhorned Beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer, and any other invasive insects that the DEC identifies as a potential problem. If evidence of the existence of these insects is found, they shall be reported immediately to the DEC.
7. Construction material from offsite locations for use as fill and/or construction material will be inspected by the Environmental Monitor for invasive species. If any new invasive species or any invasive insects are found the material will not be accepted.
8. No cleaning of clothing, footwear, or gear will be permitted in or adjacent to Pines Stream or other waterways – it may promote the spread of invasive plant species downstream.

Contractor Training

It is important to note that observations of the identified species are over hundred years old. While invasive, they are also well-established. However, the potential for new invasive species introduction on the Project ROW is high, as equipment, materials, and vehicles will arrive to the Project from elsewhere.

It is therefore important to educate construction workers about invasive species and how to prevent their spread. This education will be accomplished through training provided by PSEG Long Island.

PSEG Long Island will train and educate construction workers on identifying the target invasive plant species and site-specific measures for preventing or controlling their transport onto and throughout the ROW. The contractors will be instructed on how to inspect for invasive species, and the various equipment cleaning methods to be used. The contractor will be informed of known invasive species concentration areas during pre-construction training and at morning meetings when reviewing daily construction plans.

Construction Materials Inspection

An additional mitigation measure will be ongoing monitoring of construction activities by the Environmental Monitor throughout Project construction.

Construction material such as seed mixes and straw bales into the Project area from an outside source, or another source on the Project, will be visibly free of invasive plant material. The contractor will avoid moving invasive plant infested materials to locations that are free of invasive species. This control measure applies to the entire Project area.

Construction activities have been designed to minimize ground disturbance through the use of existing public roadways, by limiting the size of designated work areas, avoiding areas that require grading, and minimizing vegetation removal. Soil disturbance will be limited to trenchless crossing and fusing areas. There are no DEC regulated wetland and adjacent areas or agricultural areas bordering the Project.

In these areas where construction equipment leaves the ROW, the Environmental Monitor will inspect the equipment prior to their use off-roadway and after off-roadway work has been completed.

Equipment Cleaning: Construction equipment

The location of invasive species likely to be encountered during construction will be shown on the Plan and Profile drawings, once an invasive species survey is conducted. Because the occurrence, location and/or density of invasive species could change in the time period between the approval of the EM&CP and the start of construction, the Certificate Holder will conduct an invasive species survey between two weeks and one month before the start of construction; the results of the survey will be sent to DEC and DPS.

Species-specific mitigation

No white poplar was identified during the WNTP tree inventory. One ash tree was identified and is unlikely to be host to the Emerald ash borer.

During the spring and summer construction months, the Environmental Monitor will observe trees along the roadways for Asian long-horned beetle signs. This includes adult beetles, larva in cut or damaged wood, exit holes (a little smaller than a dime), egg sites (smaller than a quarter and look like chew marks), and oddly dead or fallen branches. If any beetle signs are observed, the Environmental Monitor will notify DEC.

Post-Construction Monitoring

PSEG Long Island does not propose to conduct post-construction surveys or monitoring for invasive species.