A. INTRODUCTION

As detailed in Chapters 2 through 16 of this EIS, the proposed project would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. A number of the project's potential short- and long-term impacts would be fully avoided by measures incorporated into the design of the proposed project. This chapter describes those measures.

B. POTENTIAL SHORT-TERM CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS AND ABATEMENT MEASURES

AIR QUALITY

Potential impacts on local air quality during construction of the proposed project include fugitive dust (particulate) emissions from earth movement. Appropriate fugitive dust control measures, including watering of exposed areas and dust covers for trucks, would be employed to minimize any impacts. As a result, no significant air quality impacts from fugitive dust emissions are anticipated.

NOISE

Potential impacts from noise during construction of the proposed project would include noise from construction equipment operation and noise from vehicles traveling to and from the work site. In general, upgrading of the transmission line would result in some increased construction noise for a limited period of time. LIPA has committed to utilizing construction equipment that would meet applicable noise emission standards. In addition, where practical, at noise sensitive locations, including residences, low-noise emission level equipment and quiet operational procedures would be utilized.

GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

Per New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulations, LIPA will prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) and submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) with that agency prior to the start of any construction for the expansion of the substation. In addition, erosion and sediment control measures would be installed prior to beginning other land disturbances and would not be removed until the disturbed land areas are stabilized. Such practices include seeding or mulching for surface stabilization, silt fences, haybale dikes, and water quality swales. Maintenance would be performed as necessary to ensure continued stabilization. All erosion and sediment control measures and best management practices (including specifications for temporary and permanent seeding) used during construction would comply with the specifications contained in the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual dated August 2003. In addition, KeySpan's Wetland Construction Guidelines

would be used for erosion control and stormwater management. These guidelines meet or exceed the New York State Best Management Practices. Observance of KeySpan's Wetland Construction Guidelines and the restrictions contained in the NYSDEC issued General Wetlands Permit would prevent significant adverse impacts from stormwater.

NATURAL RESOURCES

During the construction period for the proposed substation, a large amount of activity would occur on-site and would displace animals from the site and nearby areas while construction is ongoing. Animals are mobile and without injury are able to leave an area that is being disturbed. When the construction activities cease temporarily, such as nights and weekends, the animals, primarily mammals and birds, would return to forage. When the construction activity ceases permanently, the animals, including reptiles and amphibians, would return to nest, reproduce and forage, except on the cleared portions of the parcel. Fencing and specific strategies, such as turtle exclusion devices would be employed to prevent animals from entering the construction area. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts on the animal population are expected from expansion of the Bridgehampton Substation.

Unlike animals, plants are not mobile and cannot leave the area of construction activity. As discussed in Chapter 9, "Natural Resources," the permanent loss of the small acreage of the expanded substation is not expected to have a significant adverse impact. The construction site, including staging and laydown areas, would have construction fencing to prevent workers and equipment from entering the surrounding areas that are not part of the construction. This would serve to protect the plants in the surrounding areas and no significant adverse impacts on plants and habitat in the surrounding areas are expected. Mature trees bordering the corridor, absent any special measures, may be subject to removal of entire trees and/or branches overhanging existing lines. The street trees would be inspected by a licensed arborist or trained horticulturalist before final project design to assess which trees would require trimming or other special protection provisions. These provisions for special construction techniques would be integrated into the Contract Bid documents. Any special conditions would be closely observed and best management practices would be integrated into the project design. Conservation strategies to reduce impact on wildlife in upland areas would be implemented during project installation.

A General Wetlands Permit that regulates utility activities within the adjacent area of State regulated wetlands. The guidelines and restrictions in the General Wetlands Permit is to prevent degradation of the wetlands. This General Wetlands Permit would be employed for the expansion of the Bridgehampton Substation. The KeySpan guidelines and restrictions in the NYSDEC issued General Wetlands Permit would be strictly enforced during the construction period in order to prevent any impacts on nearby wetlands, drainage courses, and properties. In addition, no significant adverse impacts to wetlands from installation of the transmission line are expected. If wetlands are encountered, the transmission line poles would not be placed in the wetlands for overhead portions of the line, and the transmission line would be horizontally directionally drilled under the wetlands for the underground portion of the line.

Portions of the transmission line route are located within a New York State agricultural district. According to the US Department of Agriculture and Cornell Cooperative Extension, nuisance pest species, such as the golden, nematode, Colorado potato beetle and others, could be found in the farm fields. To minimize the potential for spreading these agricultural pests, the equipment

would be decontaminated prior to moving from one field to another. The decontamination procedures would prevent any significant adverse impacts from agricultural pests during construction.

HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The potential for adverse impacts to historic and archaeological resources would be fully avoided through the implementation of a Construction Protection Plan (CPP), which will be developed in consultation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The CPP would specify measures to be taken to prevent vibration from the construction affecting historic structures. LIPA would employ and enforce the CPP to prevent any significant adverse impacts on architectural resources. The area is moderately to highly sensitive for archaeological resources. Archaeological Phase 1B testing along the Direct Route Alternative is taking place and will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. If potential archaeological resources are identified along portions of the routes where the transmission line may be underground, detailed resource recovery work by qualified archaeologists would be completed prior to the start of construction.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Potential hazardous materials-related impacts would be avoided during the construction period. LIPA would require the construction contractor to develop and implement a Health and Safety Plan to ensure that the potential for exposure of construction workers, workers on nearby sites, and others in the area is minimized. The Health and Safety Plan would define worker safety training, monitoring procedures, and personal protective measures.

C. POTENTIAL LONG-TERM IMPACTS AND ABATEMENT MEASURES

As described in previous chapters, the Proposed Action would not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. Potential long-term impacts related to natural, historic, and archaeological resources and hazardous materials would be fully avoided or minimized through the use of abatement measures. ✷