

Mayors of Cranford, Garwood, and Westfield Announce PSE&G 69kV Project Placed on Indefinite Hold

CRANFORD, GARWOOD, AND WESTFIELD, NJ -- NOVEMBER 15, 2019 -- Cranford Mayor Patrick Giblin, Garwood Mayor Sara Todisco, and Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle today announced they received notification from PSE&G that its 69kV project has been placed on indefinite hold due to ongoing logistical challenges.

The mayors were informed that, to date, the analysis performed by PSE&G has shown the preferred Conrail railway route to be cost prohibitive. In addition, with the substation plans for the Hartz building no longer in play, they indicated that there is no viable alternative route to establish at this time.

Today's update was issued in response to widely shared community concerns about the potential impacts of this initiative. It also follows many months of ongoing, collaborative discussions between the three mayors, who share a united opposition to the two previously proposed project routes affecting residential neighborhoods in their respective towns.

"I want to thank the many residents, business owners, and government officials on multiple levels who took the time to research this issue and share their feedback, demonstrating the power of community engagement on issues that matter to all of us," said Mayor Brindle. "I'm pleased that PSE&G continues to keep the lines of communication open throughout their ongoing due diligence in seeking a suitable alternative, and I remain committed to working with them alongside Mayors Giblin and Todisco to ensure a favorable outcome."

"Today's announcement reaffirms that our united position among the three municipalities is being heard by PSE&G," said Mayor Giblin. "I'm grateful that their ongoing evaluation of this project will continue to prioritize the input of our communities."

"I am pleased to hear that PSE&G continues to listen to us on this important matter, which would deeply affect those living in residential neighborhoods along the route proposed originally," said Mayor Todisco. "Not only are they showing how they listened to elected officials, but most importantly, they listened to the people. I am eager to continue the conversations with PSE&G as they further evaluate this project."

In addition, PSE&G reaffirmed their commitment to work with the mayors of these municipalities preemptively and collaboratively, in the event that a potential alternative route surfaces, to ensure an optimal outcome for all parties involved.

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