

State Environmental Quality Review
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project: Canal to Southampton Substation 69kV Underground Cable and Manhole Installation Project (“Project”)

Date: November 29, 2018

This notice is issued in accordance with Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 21 NYCRR Part 10052.

The Long Island Power Authority (“Authority”) has determined, based on information provided by PSEG Long Island (“PSEGLI”) and the Full Environmental Assessment Form and related documents (the “EA”) prepared by Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC (NP&V) that the Proposed Action described below will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Canal to Southampton Substation 69kV Underground Cable and Manhole Installation Project (“Project”)

Location: Within the right of ways of Sunrise Highway (NYS Route 24), Longview Road and the Long Island Railroad, Town of Southampton and Village of Southampton, New York (the “Property”)

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

This Negative Declaration summarizes the environmental review of the proposed installation of a new underground 69 kV cable within approximately 5.1 miles of existing conduit plus additional new conduit on either side of the proposed manholes between the Canal Substation and the Southampton Substation, in the Town of Southampton and Village of Southampton. This conduit was constructed in 2000 as a spare reserved for future use when the currently operating underground transmission line between the two substations (Circuit 1) was installed. The new 69 kV circuit (Circuit 2) is needed to improve the supply and reliability of electrical service on the South Fork of Long Island.

The proposed installation of the cable within the existing underground conduit requires the installation of thirteen (13) new manholes within the roadways and in the Long Island Rail Road (“LIRR”) rights of ways. The number of manholes that will be installed is a

function of engineering requirements construction and servicing the underground transmission cable installations. The manholes are necessary access points for maintenance of the proposed 69 kV cable. The manholes will connect to the conduit in which the new 69 kV cable will be installed. New ground switches will be installed at both substation terminals. The locations of the proposed 69 kV cable, manholes, and associated improvements are further illustrated in Figures 2A-2G and Attachment 1.

Excavation for the installation of the manholes and conduit and connection to the existing conduit will be required for the Proposed Action. The excavation area will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. It is anticipated that the largest disturbance area will be approximately 20' long and 25' wide for the installation of the manholes. On either side of each manhole, a small amount of trenching will be required to reconfigure the conduit to connect to the new manhole. The trench for the proposed conduit will be approximately 4' wide for the majority of the disturbance area except as the trench approaches the connection points to the existing conduit, where it will widen to a maximum of approximately 8'. In total, 0.66 acres or less will be disturbed as a result of the installation of the manholes and associated conduit. The new manholes are proposed to be located approximately 20' from the existing Circuit 1 manholes. The manholes for Circuit 2 will all be below ground with the manhole covers installed at grade. The excavations are proposed only in paved roadways and maintained rights of way as illustrated in Figures 2A-2G and Site Photographs, Appendix A. A temporary construction staging area will be located in the right of way immediately west of the Southampton Substation (approximately one acre in area) within existing disturbed areas that are in various stages of vegetative succession.

Due to space limitations at the Southampton Substation, the new 69 kV circuit cannot enter the substation underground and will have to be brought into the substation overhead. This connection will require the installation of a new 75' wood riser pole approximately 20' to the south of an existing 75' wood pole located west of the Southampton substation fence. To create space for the new pole, several existing overhead circuits coming into the substation will be consolidated on an existing pole (i.e., the circuits will be stacked on a single pole).

In order for construction vehicles to access the work areas along the LIRR right of way, portions of the right of way will need to be graded and temporarily covered with gravel. Areas need to be graded are illustrated on Figures 2A – 2G. Six areas totaling approximately 1.83 miles and between 12 feet and 40 feet wide will be graded and temporarily covered in gravel for stabilization. In total, this will result in a temporary disturbance of 3.47 acres of right of way. Once construction is complete, the gravel will be removed and the disturbed areas will be reseeded with native vegetation. Disturbance for the overall project totals 5.13 acres. As disturbance exceeds one acre, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is required as per the NYSDEC SPDES General Permit for Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-15-002) and will be prepared for the Proposed Action.

It is anticipated that Project construction will begin in November 2018 and be complete in approximately eight months.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

The Proposed Action will occur within the rights of way of Sunrise Highway (NYS Route 24), Longview Road and the LIRR generally in the east/west direction between the Canal Substation and Southampton Substation. The Proposed Action will involve disturbances of 5.13 acres for: (i) excavation in the existing roadway and maintained right of way; (ii) the temporary construction access roadway and (iii) the temporary construction staging area (approximately one acre in size) immediately west of the Southampton Substation. No trees will be removed; only clearing of early successional vegetation will be required and no environmental resources will be adversely affected as a result of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is an “Unlisted” Action as that term is defined in SEQRA.

Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC (NP&V) has prepared, and PSEGLI has reviewed, the following documents: Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Parts 1, 2 & 3 and supporting documents.

The EAF analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action as set forth in a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)-approved form of EAF. The work will be completed within previously disturbed areas and no environmentally sensitive areas will be disturbed by the proposed construction. The EAF evaluates the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and character of the area, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources. Key findings are outlined below:

- The new 69kV cable will be installed within an existing underground conduit between the Canal and Southampton Substations. Ground disturbance (installation of manholes and one wood riser pole, as well as temporary construction staging and a construction access road) will take place within the right of ways of Sunrise Highway (New York State Route 27), Longview Road and the Long Island Railroad in areas that have been previously disturbed by past construction and development. It is anticipated that the largest disturbance area will be approximately 20’ long and 25’ wide for the installation of the manholes. On either side of each manhole, a small amount of trenching will be required to reconfigure the conduit to connect to the new manhole. The trench for the proposed conduit will be approximately 4’ wide for the majority of the disturbance area except as the trench approaches the connection points to the existing conduit , where it will widen to a maximum of approximately 8’. In total, 0.66 acres or less will be disturbed as a result of the installation of the manholes and associated conduit.

- All work will be completed landward of the wetlands boundary and no disturbance is proposed within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation wetlands or the 100-foot regulated adjacent area. Erosion controls will be utilized to ensure protection of the adjacent wetlands.
- The Proposed Action will involve the following disturbed areas: (i) 0.66 acres for subsurface excavations in the existing roadway and maintained rights of way; (ii) approximately one acre associated with a temporary construction staging area immediately west of the Southampton Substation; (iii) and approximately 3.47 acres associated with the temporary construction access roadway. No trees will be removed; only clearing of early successional vegetation will be required. The Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife or ecological communities including rare, threatened or endangered species at either the individual or population level. The Proposed Action will not eliminate any high quality or valuable wildlife habitat and will not adversely affect the species that may occur in the area. Once project construction is complete, the temporarily disturbed areas will be seeded/restored or repaved as appropriate.
- The Proposed Action will occur entirely within FEMA's "X elevation" flood zone. FEMA's X flood zones are defined as "An area of minimal flood hazard that is determined to be outside the Special Flood Hazard Area and higher than the elevation of the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (or 500-year) flood." The proposed manholes will be installed underground but outside the flood prone area. No significant adverse impact to flood zones is anticipated.
- The proposed addition of new 69kV cable in an existing underground conduit, thirteen subsurface manholes and a new 75' wood riser pole adjacent to the existing Southampton Substation will have no significant adverse impact on neighboring land uses. The existing conduit and proposed manholes will be underground, and therefore will not be visible with the exception of at-grade manhole covers providing subsurface access. The proposed 75-foot tall wood riser pole is adjacent to existing poles of similar height and material, and adjacent to a transmission line having steel towers approximately 60 feet in height. The Proposed Action will not significantly impair the visual landscape as experienced from any scenic or aesthetic resources of concern or interfere with or reduce the public's, or area residents', enjoyment and/or appreciation of the appearance of any inventoried scenic, open space, or other resource.
- As documented by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation ("OPRHP") Stage 1 Archival Search and Archaeological Survey and Stage 2 Site Evaluation for the LIPA Riverhead to Southampton Cable Project, Town of

Southampton, Suffolk County, New York, dated February 1, 2000 and OPRHP letter dated May 16, 2018 which indicated, *'the project site is not eligible for inclusion in the State and National Register of Historic Places and 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'*.

- The Proposed Action is not within a Critical Environmental Area (“CEA”), however, it is located south of the Peconic Bay and Environs CEA (located on the north side of NYS Route 27). This CEA was established to benefit human health & protect drinking water. The Proposed Action is located north of the Shinnecock Indian Contact Period Village Fort CEA (located south of the LIRR ROW between Peconic Road and Hill Station Road) and was established to protect cultural, historic, archaeological resources. The Proposed Action is located outside of the boundaries of the CEAs and involves disturbance of previously disturbed roadway/utility right of way and paved areas. Additionally, the Proposed Action would not result in any adverse impacts to groundwater resources or wetlands, or adversely impact any significant ecological resources, visual or cultural resources. Overall, the Proposed Action would not result in adverse impacts to the nearby Critical Environmental Areas.

Based upon review of information provided, the Authority has determined that the Proposed Action would not have any significant adverse impacts on the environment and, accordingly, that an environmental impact statement is not required. A full statement of the reasons supporting this determination is set forth in the EA and related documents.

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Daniel Rogers, Manager, Estimating, Permitting & Risk Management, PSEG Long Island

Address: 175 East Old Country Road, Hicksville, NY 11801

Telephone Number: (800) 490-0025

E-mail: PSEGLongIslandSEQR@pseg.com

/s/ Rick Shansky
Rick Shansky
Vice President of Operations Oversight

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