

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

Project: PSEG-LI Overhead and Underground Utility Relocation for the NYS-112 Road Widening Project

Date: May 6, 2019

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 and the Full Environmental Assessment Form and related documents (the “EA”) prepared by PS&S Engineering, P.C. (PS&S) 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: PSEG-LI Overhead and Underground Utility Relocation for the NYS-112 Road Widening Project (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Within the rights of way of NYS-112 (Medford Avenue), Horseblock Road (CR-16), Interstate-495/Long Island Expressway North Service Road, Middle Island Road and Commercial Boulevard, between Waverly Avenue and Old Port Jefferson Road, and just south of Middle Country Road (Route 25) Hamlets of Medford and Coram, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, NY

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action is being undertaken to accommodate the NYSDOT Road Widening project in the Hamlet of Medford, Town of Brookhaven, New York. The NYS-112 corridor is undergoing reconstruction by the NYSDOT to widen the roadway in order to improve safety and capacity along the active north-south corridor. Construction of the NYSDOT Road Widening project will require the relocation of LIPA-owned electric facilities which are located adjacent to an approximately 1.9-mile section of the roadway.

The overhead (“OH”) facilities to be relocated and installed include primary and secondary distribution lines and a limited section of an existing OH 69 kV transmission line. An approximately 0.12-mile section of an existing OH 69 kV transmission line that currently runs along the east side of NYS-112 north of Granny Road will be relocated to the west side. The new transmission poles, which will be used for both transmission and distribution lines, will be approximately 10 to 30 feet taller than the poles they will be replacing. Additionally, four existing distribution poles on the west side of the road will be replaced by poles approximately 30 feet taller. As a result of the Proposed Action, for this 0.12-mile section of NYS-112, the relocated transmission line on the west side will be approximately 25 feet taller at points than is the existing transmission line. The wood transmission poles on the east side of NYS-112 which will no longer be needed will be removed. In addition to the transmission relocations, the Proposed Action includes the following: (i) relocation and replacement of 83 primary and secondary wood distribution poles with wood poles that are the same height or poles that are no greater than 10 feet taller and (ii) installation of four new distribution poles. All poles will be placed in a strip between the curb and sidewalk in the newly NYSDOT-constructed roadway. As compared to the existing pole locations, the newly installed poles will be placed approximately the same distances from the pavement ledges on the west and east sides of the reconstructed roadway.

Underground (“UG”) facilities to be relocated and installed in the Proposed Action include 13kV primary and secondary service lines. The UG utility work includes the following: (i) abandonment of 815 feet of cable along NYS-112 where it crosses NYS-112; (ii) installation of approximately 2,130 feet of cable and conduit along the west side of NYS-112 where it will cross I-495; (iii) installation of approximately 660 feet of cable and 220 feet of cable to run parallel in proposed conduit along Horseblock Road; (iv) installation of approximately 95 feet of cable and conduit to run across Horseblock Road to connect to an existing customer; (v) installation of approximately 325 feet of cable to run along NYS-112 and then cross the road to run along I-495 North Service Road; (vi) installation of two cables (140 feet and 505 feet in length, respectively) along the west side of NYS-112 to connect to existing customers; and (vii) installation of three manholes, one below grade transformer and one switchgear along the west side of NYS-112.

A list of the proposed OH pole and UG cable components for the work to be completed along each roadway is included as **Table 1**.

Table 1: Proposed Action Components

Roadway	Relocated and New Poles
NYS-112	10 – OH Transmission/ Distribution Poles, between Granny Road and Old Port Jefferson Road
	76 – OH Distribution Poles, between Waverly Avenue & Granny Road & 1 pole just north of Granny Road (east side of NYS-112)
	UG Distribution Cable & Conduit
Horseblock Road	6 – OH Distribution poles
	UG Distribution Cable & Conduit
I-495 North Service Road	1 – OH Distribution Poles
	UG Distribution Cable & Conduit
Middle Island Road	2 – OH Distribution Poles
Commercial Boulevard	2 – OH Distribution Poles

It is anticipated that construction of the Proposed Action will commence in April 2019 and will take approximately 20 months to complete, ultimately depending on the schedule of the NYSDOT Road Widening project.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

Based on a review of the Proposed Action’s scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) Parts 1, 2 and 3 and supporting figures and assessments were prepared by Paulus Sokolowski and Sartor Engineering, P.C. (PS&S), and reviewed by PSEG-LI, to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is an “Unlisted” Action as that term is defined in SEQRA. 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 Proposed Action will occur within the rights of way of NYS-112, and limited lengths of Horseblock Road, I-495 North Service Road, Middle Island Road and Commercial Boulevard between Waverly Avenue to the south and Old Port Jefferson Road to the north, in Medford and Coram, New York; a small portion will occur along NYS-112 approximately 640 feet north of Wincoram Way/Skips Road in Coram, New York. The Proposed Action will involve disturbances of less than 0.05 acre for: (i) excavations for pole installations and removals, (ii) the twelve drill pit locations for the UG cable and conduit relocation across the I-495 and Horseblock Road; (iii) three manhole installations along NYS-112; (iv) one below grade transformer along NYS-112, and (v) one padmount switchgear along NYS-112. All proposed construction will take place within the construction limits for the NYSDOT's Road Widening project. Therefore, all disturbances for the Proposed Action will occur within the NYSDOT's construction limits of disturbance and within previously disturbed franchise areas, including paved roadways, paved sidewalks and landscaped areas. The excavation area will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. It is anticipated that the largest disturbance areas will be approximately 12' by 7' wide, the area for the 11' by 6' manhole installations. No environmentally sensitive areas will be disturbed by construction of the Proposed Action, and no trees will be removed for the Proposed Action; tree trimming will be required for safety clearances along the rights of way of the utility corridor and no environmental resources will be adversely affected as a result of the Proposed Action. Power outages may be required during construction for safety purposes, and they will be minimized to the maximum extent possible. If a power outage is required, the potentially affected customers will be notified in advance. The Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impact to environmentally sensitive areas.

All work located between Waverly Avenue and Old Port Jefferson Road will be completed landward of the wetlands boundary and no disturbance is proposed within the NYSDEC wetlands or the 100-foot regulated adjacent area (refer to Aerial Site Location Map – **Figure 2**). One pole replacement, Pole #299 located approximately 650 feet north of Wincoram Way/Skips Road in Coram, is located within a DEC Freshwater regulated wetlands adjacent area, and as such requires submission of a site-specific Notice of Commencement (NOC) to the NYSDEC pursuant to PSEG-LI's Wetlands General Permit (GP-1-9901-00011/00026). The area of disturbance will be located within a well-maintained grass shoulder, and within a curb line that lies between the pole area and the wetland. The NOC was submitted to the NYSDEC on January 17, 2019. Silt fence will be installed to prevent migration to the freshwater wetland and limit erosion in the area of the soil disturbance. Due to the nature and location of the work, it will not have adverse impacts to the Wetlands area. There are no federally jurisdictional United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") or NYSDEC regulated tidal wetlands or regulated

adjacent areas (300 feet) within or adjacent to the Proposed Action area. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Action will not result in adverse impacts to wetlands.

The Proposed Action was reviewed for visual resource impacts and a Visual Resources attachment was prepared (refer to Visual Resources – **Attachment B** and associated Visual Figures, Photos and Renderings – **Appendixes A and B**). The Visual Resource Assessment identifies and examines the visual resources and the visual qualities of the area within a one-mile radius of the OH transmission/distribution pole relocations from the east to the west side of NYS-112 between Granny Road and Old Port Jefferson Road (the “Study Area”), and assesses the visual and aesthetic impacts on scenic, recreational and historical areas. The Visual Resource Assessment for the Proposed Action was prepared in accordance with NYSDEC Program Policy “Assessing and Mitigating Visual Impacts”.

The Study Area is defined as a one-mile radius surrounding the OH transmission/distribution pole relocations from the east to the west side of NYS-112 between Granny Road and Old Port Jefferson Road (refer to Figure A-1: Visual Resources Map – **Appendix A**). The Study Area land uses are predominantly Recreation and Open Space and Commercial uses. The pole relocations will be seen from the immediate land uses along the west and east sides of NYS-112, including the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on the west side of NYS-112, the Country Fair Entertainment Park (“Park”) to the south and on the east side of NYS-112, as well as commercial, vacant, transportation (NYSDOT property) uses on the east side of NYS-112. Impacts to these uses are anticipated to be negligible as these uses are not considered sensitive visual receptors. Visual impacts to the cemetery property will not be significant due to the existing line of trees that will shield the poles from view, except for the top sections of the poles. There are no buildings or structures listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places or over 50 years old within the footprint or within 1 mile of the Proposed Action area. The Proposed Action will not significantly impair the visual landscape as experienced from other 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 inventoried scenic, open space, or other resource.

In the Study Area, the relocation of transmission poles and the replacement of certain existing poles on the west side of NYS-112 will result in a general increase of pole heights, ranging from 10 to 30 feet. As a result of the Proposed Action, for this 0.12-mile section of NYS-112, the relocated transmission line on the west side will be approximately 10 to 15 feet taller at points than is the existing transmission line on the east side. However, this impact will not be significant because the adjacent land uses are

warehouse-type facilities and a cemetery. The existing transmission line cannot be seen from local resource locations (see Figure A-1: Visual Resources Map – **Appendix A**). It is unlikely that the taller poles will be visible from the locations because of the intervening wooded landscape (see Photos – **Appendix A**). At most, only the top sections of the poles might be partially visible from a few of the locations. Given the distance between these locations and the proposed transmission line, such a limited visibility would not be significant. There will not be a significant adverse impact on designated visual resources or the character of the area. The replacement and relocation of 83 distribution poles, the installation of four new distribution poles, and the proposed UG work outside of the Study Area do not involve a height increase of more than 10 feet and do not have the potential for a significant adverse visual impact. Only minor tree trimming will be required for utility pole clearances, and it is not anticipated to significantly impact the visual landscape of the area.

The Proposed Action will not have significant impacts to ambient or background noise levels or vibration levels. There will be temporary, minor noise impacts during construction. Operational noise will occur due to the HDD drilling and excavating for the UG cable and conduit installation. The HDD drilling and excavation equipment have a noise level of approximately 85 dBA (when the drill is above the ground) when measuring from the area immediately next to the equipment, which is equivalent to typical truck traffic. At a distance of approximately 60 feet from the HDD equipment, the noise level will be approximately 65 dBA. The distance between any HDD drilling location and the closest residential location is 1,860 feet (0.35 miles). Therefore, there will not be any significant noise impact from HDD drilling at the residential locations. The closest commercial uses to an HDD drilling location are 45 and 70 feet, respectively. The noise level at that location may be slightly elevated during drilling, and will last only approximately 2 days. Therefore, there will not be any significant impact at the commercial locations given the temporary nature of the drilling work. The HDD drilling locations are illustrated on the Aerial Site Location Map – **Figure 2**.

The OH pole installation and excavation equipment has a lower noise level than the HDD equipment. The pole installation noise level at the residential location located closest to a pole installation (at a distance of 50 feet) will be less than 65 dBA. The distance between a pole installation location and the closest commercial location is approximately 40 feet. Other commercial uses along the Proposed Action route are at least 70 feet away from the nearest pole work. The noise level at the closest residential and commercial location may be slightly elevated during the pole installation activity, but will last only approximately 2 days. Therefore, the OH work will not result in a significant noise impact on residential uses or area commercial businesses due to the temporary nature of the installation activity.

The Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts to area habitat or federal- or state-listed rare, threatened or endangered species. Based on review of the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) Response Letter as part of the NYSDOT Road Widening project request for information as part of the NYSDOT's environmental review, there are no known hibernacula within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Action site and there are no known reported roost sites within approximately 6 miles of the site (NYSDOT Road Widening project, Final Design Report, Environmental Information, 2016). Tree trimming will be required for safety clearances along the rights of way of the utility corridor. Although some forested areas in the vicinity of the Proposed Action may be a suitable habitat for the NLEB, the tree trimming will occur along the active and well-developed rights of way of the NYS-112 roadway, and this trimming will be minor in nature. There are no known Tiger Salamanders within 0.25 miles of the Proposed Action site and there are no waterbodies or vegetated areas present at the site that would serve as Tiger Salamander habitat. The nearest reported habitat suitable for the Tiger Salamander is the Pitch Pine Oak Heath Woodland which is located over 2,000 feet (over 0.3 miles) northeast of the site. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Proposed Action will not result in any impact to the NLEB or Tiger Salamander species.

According to the NYNHP Response Letter as discussed above, the Proposed Action area is within the vicinity of the Trinerved White Boneset (scientific name *Eupatorium album* var. *subvenosum*), a vascular plant that is listed in New York State as Threatened. The plant was recorded as occurring within the property of the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery ("cemetery property") in September 6, 1985, specifically within dry oak woods areas. Since the soil disturbances for the Proposed Action will be located within mowed grassy roadside areas along the existing utility rights of way, no significant adverse impact on this plant species are anticipated. The Proposed Action is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts to archeological resources or other cultural resources. The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) database was reviewed for State and National historic buildings within one mile of the Proposed Action (<https://cris.parks.ny.gov/>. Accessed 4/4/2019). No new historic or prehistoric sites have been listed since the date of the correspondence from OPRHP. Most construction activities will occur within the construction workspace and roadwork barriers which will be installed by the NYSDOT for the Road Widening project. As such, it is anticipated that construction of the Proposed Action will not result in a significant impact to cultural resources in the area.

A portion of the Proposed Action is located within an archeological sensitive area (refer to Archeological Sensitive Areas Map – **Figure 3**). The OPRHP made the determination that the NYSDOT Road Widening project will have no impact on archaeological resources listed in or eligible for the New York State National Registers of Historic Places (NYSDOT's Final Design Report Appendix B – Environmental Information for the Reconstruction Project PIN 0016.27.101 NY 112 From I-495 to Granny Road, 2016).

The construction activities for the Proposed Action will occur within the construction limits of the NYSDOT Road Widening project. Therefore, all disturbances for the Proposed Action will occur within the NYSDOT's construction limits of disturbance and within previously disturbed franchise areas, including paved sidewalks and landscaped areas. As such, a significant adverse construction impact to archaeological resources is unlikely. In the event intact archeological resources are identified during construction, further testing, documentation, and evaluation may be necessary and will be undertaken in consultation with OPRHP.

There are no buildings or structures listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places or over 50 years old within the footprint, or within 1 mile of the Proposed Action area (CRIS, 2019). Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in a significant adverse impact to architectural resources.

Based upon review of information provided, the Long Island Power 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:

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