

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

Project: PSEG-LI Flowerfield Substation Upgrade and Distribution Feeders

Date: October 4, 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 Short Environmental Assessment Form and related documents (the “EA”) prepared by PSEG Long Island (“PSEG-LI”) and GEI Consultants, Inc. 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 Flowerfield Substation Upgrade and Distribution Feeders (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Flowerfield Substation and within the rights of way of Mills Pond Road, Route 25A, Moriches Road and Second Street in the Hamlet of Saint James and the Hamlet of Smithtown, Town of Smithtown, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action is being undertaken to upgrade existing electrical infrastructure in the hamlets of Saint James and Smithtown, in the Town of Smithtown, in order to provide sufficient capacity for projected load growth in the area and to provide increased reliability to the customers in the communities of Saint James, Stony Brook, Head of the Harbor, Nissequogue, and in the unincorporated areas in the Town of Smithtown, that are served by the Flowerfield substation.

The Proposed Action includes the expansion of the existing Substation, the installation of underground (“UG”) feeder cable, the replacement of transmission and distribution poles and the reconductoring of overhead (“OH”) transmission and distribution lines. The

Substation is located on the east side of Mills Pond Road, approximately 1,740 feet (0.3± miles) south of Route 25A in Saint James (Tax parcel 0800 040 00 0200 008000). The existing Substation area footprint is approximately 0.58 acres. Expansion will occur within the southeast corner of the Substation property. The proposed work within the Substation (including the expansion area) includes the replacement and relocation of two mobile capacitor banks with one skid mounted capacitor bank, replacement and relocation of one padmount 69/13kV 6.25 MVA transformer (which will be upgraded to 69/13kV 33 MVA), replacement and relocation of one control house with battery storage and one take off structure, replacement and relocation of switches and installation of one associated switching foundation, replacement bus work and 13kV gas circuit breakers, removal of five existing OH wood transmission poles, and connection of two new 13kV UG electrical feeder cables to the new switchgear unit.

The Proposed Action also includes the following OH and UG work outside of the proposed Substation footprint: (i) replacement of 3 wood transmission poles, relocation of one transmission pole to a location approximately 30 feet north, OH transmission reconductoring and installation of a 70-foot bypass wire along a section of the Long Island Railroad tracks which is located east of the Substation; (ii) installation of one 2,550 foot 13kV UG feeder cable which will exit the Substation via the west side driveway, run along Mills Pond Road heading north, and then along Route 25A/North Country Road (“Route 25A”) to connect to new Pole #187.5; (iii) installation of one 5,590 foot 13kV UG feeder cable which will exit the Substation via the west side driveway, run along Mills Pond Road heading south, will cross beneath the LIRR Tracks, and then run north along Moriches Road to connect to Pole #178; (iv) installation of nine manholes; (v) replacement of 30 distribution poles along Route 25A, Moriches Road and Second Street and installation of three distribution poles along Route 25A, Moriches Road and Second Street; and (vi) OH distribution reconductoring and pole top work. All newly installed poles for all transmission pole replacements, relocations, and for all distribution pole replacements and installations will be no greater than 10 feet taller than the existing area poles. Refer to the following maps and figures: Location Map – **Figure 1** and Aerial Imagery and Proposed Action Map – **Figure 2**. Minor tree trimming will be required for utility pole clearances along the transmission and distribution OH line pole work.

It is anticipated that construction of the Proposed Action will commence in October 2019 and will take approximately 10 months to complete.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

To review the Proposed Action's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) Parts 1, 2 and 3 and supporting figures and assessments were prepared by PSEG-LI and GEI Consultants, Inc. to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is an "Unlisted" Action as that term is defined in SEQRA. The SEAF evaluated 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 Mills Pond Road, Route 25A, Moriches Road and Second Street, in the hamlets of Saint James and Smithtown, Suffolk County, New York. No sensitive environmental resources were identified in the Proposed Action area. Ground disturbance (including directional drilling access pits, manhole installation, installation/removal of electrical poles, and installation/relocation of equipment within the Substation property) will take place within the proposed expanded Substation footprint and along paved roadways, paved sidewalks and mowed roadside grass areas. Except for a portion of the proposed Substation expansion area, all of these areas have been previously disturbed by past road construction and regular mowing/maintenance. The level of disturbance from installation of the UG feeder cable, manholes, drill access pits, poles and work within the footprint of the proposed expanded Substation will total approximately 0.2 acres.

The majority of the work consists of underground installations, OH pole replacements, or work within the proposed expanded Substation footprint. All pole replacements, as well as the three OH distribution pole installations and one OH transmission pole relocation, involve new wood utility poles to be installed in-line that are no greater than 10 feet taller than existing poles. As a result, visual impacts as a result of the Proposed Action will be minimal.

The Proposed Action was submitted for review to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and was reviewed in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which satisfies the requirements of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law, Section 14.09. A portion of the Proposed Action route is located within the Mills Pond Historic District and adjacent to two historic buildings along Mills Pond Road, The Isaac Mills House and The Bailey-Childs House. The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) database was reviewed for State and National historic buildings within one mile of the Proposed Action. No new historic or prehistoric sites have been listed since the date of the correspondence from OPRHP. The Proposed Action is within a OPRHP designated archaeologically sensitive area (refer to Cultural Resources Map – **Figure 3**).

Past disturbance, grading and construction have occurred along the existing LIPA and road rights of way, which have resulted in significant occurrences of soil disturbance in these areas. Based on review of the Proposed Action scope, the OPRHP made the determination that no historic or pre-historic resources will be affected by the project in correspondence dated June 18, 2019 and July 1, 2019 (see **Appendix A**).

A detailed Noise Analysis was completed in order to evaluate the potential sound-level impact of future operational noise levels associated with the Proposed Transformer (refer to **Appendix A**). A discussion of these potential impacts is presented in Noise Assessment – **Attachment B**. The existing ambient noise levels (“Existing Noise Levels”) were measured at the three noise receptors from June 26 through June 27, 2019, during daytime and nighttime periods. The three monitoring points were located at the closest residential and commercial locations to the Proposed Transformer location. Existing noise levels were estimated at eight additional residential properties and one additional commercial property. Modeling was utilized to estimate the Proposed Transformer noise levels based on the new 69/13kV 33 MVA transformer operating at maximum capacity.

Existing noise levels ranged from 38.6 dBA to 65.8 dBA. The highest Incremental Noise Level (noise increase) modeled is 4.9 dBA at a residential property boundary. According to the NYSDEC Noise Policy Guidance, this noise level increase may have potential for adverse noise impacts only in cases where the most sensitive receptors are present. However, at this location, the minimum Existing Noise Level and Modeled Noise Level are low (39 and 43 dBA, respectively) and are well below 65 dBA, which NYSDEC recommends as the maximum overall noise level. The highest Existing Noise Levels and highest Modeled Noise Levels in this analysis is 66 dBA at seven (7) locations. However, the highest noise levels with operation of the Proposed Action will not result in any perceptible noise increases above these levels at the nearest residential or commercial receptor. The closest open space and recreational receptors are located over 1,000 feet from the Proposed Transformer. As even maximum noise levels at the closest residential and closest commercial locations will not result in any perceptible noise increase, the Proposed Action will not result in any adverse noise impacts at the closest open space and recreational receptors. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse noise impacts to sensitive receptors.

A portion of the UG feeder cable installation along Mills Pond Road and Route 25A is located within a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) regulated Freshwater wetland adjacent area (Mills Pond), and as such, requires submission of a site-specific Notice of Commencement (NOC) to the NYSDEC pursuant to PSEG-LI's Wetlands General Permit 1-9901-00011/00026. The area of disturbance will be located within a paved roadway and well-maintained grass shoulder. No work will occur within the wetland. Soil erosion and sediment control measures, (e.g.

silt fence), will be utilized to protect the wetland. Once construction is complete, the disturbed areas will be restored to previous conditions utilizing native species and no impacts to the wetland will occur. There will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment, flora, fauna, community character or historic resources as a result of the construction or operation of the Proposed Action.

Based upon the SEQRA review, PSEG-LI concludes that the Proposed Action will not have any significant adverse impacts on the environment and, accordingly, that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not need to be prepared. 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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