

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

Project: Sterling Substation – Distribution Feeders and Conversion and Reconductoring Project

Date: October 8, 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 LXXXI 10052.

The Long Island Power Authority (“Authority”) has determined, based on information provided by PSEG Long Island and the Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 prepared by Nelson, Pope and 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: Sterling Substation – Distribution Feeders and Conversion and Reconductoring Project

Location: Field of Dreams Athletic Complex (5619 Old Sunrise Highway), Hamlet of Massapequa, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, NY; Bayview Avenue, Avon Place and Merrick Road, Village of Amityville, Suffolk County, NY

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Project Description:

The Proposed Action consists of the installation of one new distribution exit feeder, and the rerouting of existing underground distribution feeders from the Sterling Substation, which is located south of East Chestnut Street between Dove Street and Grand Street. All existing feeders exit the substation underground. The distribution exit feeder installation will be completed via a combination of open trench excavation and horizontal directional drilling (HDD). Additionally, the Proposed Action will consist of the replacement of existing distribution poles and overhead conductor and the installation of new distribution poles and overhead conductor. The locations of the various components of the Proposed Action are shown in Figure 1 - Proposed.

Specifically, the Proposed Action includes the following:

- One new underground distribution exit feeder (Feeder 7J-878), approximately 1,035 feet in length, will be installed within a new conduit that will exit the southeastern portion of the existing Sterling Substation. The feeder will extend south from the Sterling Substation below the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) tracks, then east along the northern boundary of the Field of Dreams Athletic Complex (FDAC), and then south through the FDAC. The new distribution exit feeder will connect to new below-grade switchgear that will be installed within the FDAC, north of Old Sunrise Highway. Two new manholes will be installed along the route of the exit feeder. The new feeder will provide increased capacity to meet anticipated additional demand.

- An existing underground distribution exit feeder (Feeder 7J-864) and portions of two other existing underground distribution feeders (Feeders 7J-861 and 7J-862) will be rerouted in order to meet current engineering standards, by separating the feeders into separate conduit and manhole systems.
- A total of 49 existing wood utility poles, ranging in height from 35-feet to 40-feet, will be replaced with new 40-foot to 45-foot wood utility poles in order to meet current engineering standards and storm harden the system. In addition, one new 35-foot and one new 45-foot wood utility pole will be installed. Distribution pole installation and replacement activities will occur along Avon Place and Bayview Avenue. Overhead electrical conductor will be replaced throughout these areas, as necessary. The C&R work is being completed in compliance with LIPA Storm Hardening Standards.

The locations of the distribution exit feeder work are depicted on Figure 2. Distribution pole replacements and installations are depicted on Figures 3 through 6.

The Proposed Action requires the acquisition of an easement from the Town of Oyster Bay for work to be completed within the FDAC. The Town of Oyster Bay is an Involved Agency for SEQRA purposes. A Lead Agency coordination letter, dated August 27, 2019, was sent to the Town of Oyster Bay. No formal response has been received to date.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

Based on a review of the Proposed Action's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Short Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 ("SEAF") was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is an "Unlisted" Action as defined in SEQRA.

The SEAF evaluated the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and character of the areas, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources. Key findings are outlined below.

- No sensitive environmental resources were identified in the project area. Ground disturbance (including trenching for conduit, manholes, horizontal directional drilling (HDD) access pits, installation of switchgear, and installation/replacement of distribution poles) will take place within previously disturbed areas and/or areas that undergo regular mowing/maintenance. 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. The Proposed Action is not located within a Critical Environmental Area. Once construction is complete, all disturbed areas will be restored in-kind.
- The Proposed Action will not be completed within any NYSDEC-regulated wetlands and therefore will not result in any disturbance to these areas. Three replacement poles located on Avon Place (Pole #s 9, 10, and 11) are located within a NYSDEC-regulated Freshwater Wetlands Adjacent Area. These pole replacement activities are authorized under PSEG Long Island's existing NYSDEC General Wetlands Permit (Servco/PSEG LI NYSDEC Permit No. 1-9901-00011/00026). Construction impacts within the regulated wetlands adjacent area will be minimized through implementation of appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures (i.e. silt fence). In addition, as a portion of the C&R work is located within a New York State

coastal area, a coastal assessment form was submitted to the New York State Department of State for record. This work will be consistent with State coastal policies.

- One replacement pole located on Avon Place (Pole #10) is located within the 100-year floodplain. This replacement pole will be installed within previously disturbed ROW. This replacement pole will not result in an increase in impervious area and will not impact the rate of floodwater rise and fall, should flooding occur near the project location. As such, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated to the designated floodplains as a result of the Proposed Action.
- Aboveground components of the Proposed Action are limited to the replacement of approximately 49 existing utility poles, the installation of two new utility poles and the replacement of overhead conductor. All replacement poles would be visually similar to existing poles to be removed. All existing poles will be replaced with new poles that are less than 10 feet taller than existing poles. The two new pole installations will be similar in height to existing poles, and will be located within the alignment of existing poles. All distribution exit feeders and associated appurtenances (switchgears and manholes) will be located below-grade. As a result, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse visual impacts.
- There are no listed or eligible Federal or State Register of Historic Places sites, buildings or landmarks in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. In addition, there are no federal, state or locally designated historic districts in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is located within a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation ("OPRHP") designated archaeologically sensitive area. A consultation request was submitted to OPRHP. In a letter dated May 17, 2019, the OPRHP indicated that the Proposed Action would have no impact on archaeological and/or historic resources listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places (see Appendix A).

No potential for a significant adverse impact on the environment, flora, animals, community character or human health has been identified as a result of the construction or operation of the Proposed Action. Based on the EAF and PSEG Long Island's recommendation according to the standards as set forth in SEQRA, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

For Further Information:

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/s/ Rick Shansky

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Dated: October 8, 2019