

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

Project: Roslyn Substation Expansion Project

Date: March 24, 2020

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 PSEG Long Island 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: Roslyn Substation Expansion Project (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Hamlets of Roslyn Heights and Albertson, located within the Town of North Hempstead, and in the Village of North Hills, Village of Roslyn, Village of Roslyn Estates, Village of East Hills, and Village of Old Westbury, Nassau County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action includes the expansion of the existing Roslyn Substation (the “Substation”) to install additional equipment, the installation of two underground 13kV distribution exit feeders and overhead conversion and reconductoring (C&R) work (see Figure A-1 and Figure A 2).

The Substation serves customers in the Roslyn-Manhasset area, located within the Town of North Hempstead. It is located on a parcel property owned by National Grid. There is an existing easement agreement between LIPA and National Grid, which will have to be amended, as described below. Recent engineering studies and analysis by PSEG Long Island have concluded that the Proposed Action is needed as a result of incremental load growth in the area served by the Substation that is forecasted to exceed the capacity of the Substation. The proposed expansion of the Substation and new distribution feeders are required to provide an adequate and reliable power supply to the surrounding area.

The Proposed Action's scope of work includes the following:

- The Substation will be expanded by approximately $\pm 58,500$ square feet (± 1.34 acres) to the south (collectively referred to as "the Substation Site"). Approximately 1.28 acres of the expansion area are located within the existing LIPA easement, and are currently vacant. The other 0.06 acres will be obtained by easement from National Grid. New substation equipment will be installed within the expansion area, including one 138/13kV transformer bank, one 13kV switchgear and other substation support equipment. Three 40-foot lightning masts and an additional equipment enclosure/battery room structure will also be constructed. The current Substation fence line will be extended approximately 100 feet to the south to accommodate the expansion.
- The expansion area will require filling and grading to match the current grade of the adjoining Substation. Approximately 9,000 cubic yards of fill will be required to raise the expansion area from elevations ranging from approximately 134.0 feet to approximately 143.0 feet (NAVD88) to elevations ranging from approximately 137.0 feet to approximately 143.0 feet (NAVD88). Some existing successional vegetation associated with previously disturbed areas is located along the southern boundary of the expansion area and will be cleared to accommodate construction of the expanded Substation. A row of arborvitae plantings, approximately 12-14 feet in height, will be installed at the completion of construction.
- A temporary overhead 138kV transmission bypass will be installed within the existing Substation fence to allow the Substation to remain energized while installing the new equipment. The temporary overhead transmission bypass will include the installation of nine wood transmission poles having heights above grade of approximately 56.5 feet to 61 feet and overhead conductor. These poles will be removed upon the completion of Substation construction activities, which is anticipated by June 2021.
- Installation of two underground 13kV distribution exit feeders (identified as Feeder A and Feeder B on Figure A-1). Feeder A will be approximately $\pm 2,590$ linear feet and will exit the Substation Site to the east, crossing under the LIRR right-of-way onto Parkside Drive, turning east on Powerhouse Road, then north on Roslyn Road, and connecting to a new 45-foot wood riser pole (Pole #184.5). The feeder will be installed in existing spare conduit, which will not require any ground disturbance, with the exception of an approximate 390-foot portion along Roslyn Road that will be installed via open trench. Feeder B will be approximately $\pm 2,225$ linear feet and will exit the Substation to the west, traverse through the National Grid property and continue south on Willis Avenue, where it will connect to a new 45-foot wood riser pole (Pole # 56.5, which will replace an existing 35-foot wood pole). This feeder will be installed in new conduit via open trench.
- The existing easement with National Grid will be amended to include an additional 0.42 acres to accommodate the Substation expansion and the installation of Feeder B within the National Grid-owned property. Amendment of this easement will be executed prior to commencement of substation construction activities.

- Overhead C&R work will include the replacement of approximately 91 existing wood utility poles, ranging in height from 35 to 45 feet, located along public rights-of-way in neighborhoods surrounding the Substation Site. These poles will be replaced with new wood poles no more than 10 feet taller in height and within the same general locations.
- Seven new 40-foot wood utility poles will be installed along the east side of Mineola Avenue, between Regent Place and Wall Bridge Lane. The new poles will be installed in-line with existing utility poles and will be no more than 10 feet taller in height than existing wood poles in the alignment. Pole replacements and installations will allow for the upgrade and installation of pole-top equipment including transformers, switching equipment and electric conductor.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

The Environmental Assessment and supplemental information (“EA”) was completed by VHB and PSEG Long Island. 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”) was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action.

Land Use

The proposed expansion area is located immediately south of the existing Substation within National Grid-owned property. The proposed expansion area is currently used for industrial type uses, including the storage and staging of equipment and vehicles associated with the existing Substation; therefore, the expansion will not result in significant adverse impacts to land use or the current character of the area. While commercial and residential uses exist beyond the area immediately adjacent to the Substation Site, these uses will not be impacted by the expansion.

The distribution exit feeders will be completed underground within roadway rights-of-way or within the National Grid-owned property. C&R work will also be completed along existing public roadway rights-of-way, where utility poles and overhead utility infrastructure currently exist. As such, the feeders and C&R will not result in significant adverse impacts to land use and will be consistent with the current character of the area.

Groundwater

Excavation related to the Proposed Action, with a maximum depth of approximately 15 feet, will not disturb the groundwater table, which is located at 78± feet below ground surface. Three groundwater recharge basins are located in the vicinity of the expansion area; however, these are located at a significant distance from the Substation Site and separated by roadways and/or residential development. Due to this distance, no impacts to the groundwater recharge basins will

occur as a result of construction activities. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to groundwater.

Floodplains

No portions of the Proposed Action lie within the 100-year floodplain or the 500-year floodplain. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of floodwaters on the site of the Proposed Action or within the vicinity.

Wetlands

The Proposed Action is not located within or immediately adjacent to any NWI-mapped wetlands, or any NYSDEC-regulated wetlands or adjacent areas. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not impact wetlands.

Terrestrial Ecological Communities and Vegetation

The expansion area is comprised of an unranked cultural community with wide distribution throughout New York State. The expansion area is comprised of largely unvegetated land with vegetation located along the perimeter. The surrounding area is comprised primarily of the disturbed and developed communities of the existing National Grid facility, residential and commercial development, and surface roads. The Proposed Action will result in the limited removal of existing vegetation and the addition of landscape vegetation along the southern Substation perimeter. The Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to terrestrial ecological communities and vegetation within the expansion area or in the areas around the new distribution feeders and C&R work.

Wildlife

Terrestrial wildlife use of the expansion area is limited due to disturbed and largely unvegetated conditions and high levels of human activity. Due these existing conditions, implementation of the Proposed Action will not result in the elimination of high quality or otherwise undisturbed wildlife habitat and will not adversely affect the limited suburban species assemblage observed and expected to occur at the expansion area. Suburban species are able adapt quickly to changes in habitat with any displacement being temporary in nature, and therefore are tolerant of disturbance. Individuals of these species may temporarily be displaced from the expansion area during construction and will likely ultimately occupy surrounding suitable habitats. The feeder installation and C&R work will not require disturbance to any habitats that support suburban species. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife.

Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern Species and Significant Habitats

No federal or New York State threatened, endangered, or special concern species, or significant habitats, were observed at the expansion area or in the areas around the new distribution feeders and C&R work. Although USFWS IPaC records identify six federally listed species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Substation, based on field observations and regulatory agency records, habitats necessary to support these species do not occur at the expansion area or in the areas around the new distribution feeders and C&R work. Additionally, no records for New York State-listed species currently exist for the expansion area or vicinity or in the areas around the new distribution feeders and C&R work. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to threatened, endangered or special concern species, or significant habitats.

Visual Resources

The proposed permanent equipment installations within the Substation Site will consist of equipment that is of similar height and appearance to the existing Substation equipment. Further, the Substation equipment installations will be consistent with the current character and land use of the immediate area, as the immediate area is currently utilized as a Substation and adjacent properties include the National Grid facility and LIRR tracks. Based on the results of the visual assessment, the proposed Substation equipment installations will not result in significant adverse impacts on the visual character of the Study Area, as defined in the visual assessment. Additionally, the proposed Substation equipment installations will not significantly impair the visual landscape as experienced from any scenic or aesthetic resources and will not interfere with or reduce the public's, or area residents', enjoyment or appreciation of the appearance of any inventoried scenic, open space, or other resource. Thus, there will be no significant adverse visual impacts as a result of the Substation expansion.

The distribution exit feeders associated with the Proposed Action will be installed underground and will not result in significant adverse visual impacts. C&R work will include pole replacements and installations that will be no more than 10 feet taller than existing poles in the area, will be installed in-line with existing poles, and will be completed in areas where overhead electrical infrastructure exists. Therefore, the C&R work will not result in significant adverse visual impacts.

Energy

The Proposed Action would have beneficial impacts to the LIPA distribution system and the surrounding community, a heavily developed area of Nassau County consisting of many residential and commercial uses, through improved reliability and resiliency. There is a need for

improving the service in the Roslyn-Manhasset area. Expansion of the existing Substation is necessary to reduce the current load of the existing Substation and distribution exit feeders.

Noise and EMF

Increases in noise levels were determined by comparing future sound levels of the proposed transformer to the daytime and nighttime existing ambient sound level ranges in order to determine the potential for noise impacts. Due to the proposed transformer, future sound level increases of up to 1.0 dBA are expected at nearby receptor locations. According to the NYSDEC noise policy, “Assessing and Mitigating Noise Impacts”, noise level increases of less than three decibels are generally considered to be imperceptible and therefore are not considered to be a significant noise impact. The future sound levels will be lower than the noise limits specified in the Town of North Hempstead’s Noise Ordinance. Therefore, the Proposed Action, including the operation of the new transformer will not result in any significant adverse noise impacts. The distribution components of the Proposed Action do not include the installation of any operational-phase noise-generating equipment.

The potential EMF impact of the Proposed Action has been evaluated based on the EMF levels calculated for the Kings Highway Substation project. That project and the Proposed Action consist of similar equipment that will operate at comparable capacities and voltages. The EMF Assessment for the Kings Highway Substation project concluded that overall, the calculated and measured magnetic field levels associated with the project fall within the range of typical levels encountered within homes and work places. Based on a comparative analysis of the Kings Highway Substation, the predicted EMF levels from of the Proposed Action will be below the 200 mG prudence avoidance health standard established by the New York State Public Service Commission and will not result in any significant adverse impacts.

Construction

The Proposed Action will not cause any significant operational or construction impacts. During the majority of the Substation work, there will be no impact on traffic. Flaggers will be deployed any time traffic needs to be regulated. Traffic may be impacted temporarily during the installation of the distribution feeders and the C&R work. In the immediate vicinity of construction activities, access to residences and businesses may be temporarily limited, but at no point completely blocked. During work shifts, a worker will be assigned to move protective barriers to provide access to properties. A path for emergency equipment to access all residences and businesses will be provided at all times. Access will be returned to normal at completion of work. Notifications relating to temporary limited access will be sent in advance to effected local residences and businesses.

Short term impacts to ambient or background noise levels and vibration levels may be experienced along the Proposed Action route from construction equipment operation, as well as from mobile sources (i.e., trucks and worker vehicles traveling to and from the work site). These impacts, if any, will be temporary in nature and are typical for any utility construction project of this of this type. As such, no significant adverse noise or vibration impacts will occur.

Based on the EA 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 need not be prepared.

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Daniel Rogers, Manager, Estimating, Permitting and 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

Dated: March 24, 2020