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

Project: Round Swamp Road Substation and Ruland Road Substation to Plainview Substation New 69kV Transmission Circuits

Date: July 16, 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 Part 10052.

The Long Island Power Authority (the "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) and 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: Round Swamp Road Substation and Ruland Road Substation to Plainview Substation New 69kV Transmission Circuits (the "Proposed Action")

Location: Round Swamp Road Substation: In northern corner of parcel located northwest of the intersection of Old Country Road and Round Swamp Road, in the Hamlet of Plainview, Town of Oyster Bay.
Transmission Circuits: Along Plainview Road, Old Country Road, Bethpage Sweet Hollow Road, Spagnoli Road, with interconnections into the Plainview Substation, Round Swamp Substation and Ruland Road Substation, Hamlets of Plainview and Old Bethpage, Town of Oyster Bay, and Hamlet of Melville, Town of Huntington.
Distribution Feeders: Along Old Country Road and Round Swamp Road, with interconnection into the Round Swamp Substation, Hamlet of Plainview, Town of Oyster Bay.

SEQR Status: Type I

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action will involve the construction of a new electric substation, identified as the Round Swamp Road Substation (the "Proposed Substation"), and installation of two underground ("UG") 69kV transmission circuits and two UG 13kV distribution exit feeders, collectively referred to as the "Proposed Action".

The Proposed Substation will be constructed within an existing Nassau County owned stormwater recharge basin located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Old Country Road and Round Swamp Road in Plainview, Town of Oyster Bay, New York (the "Proposed Substation parcel"). The Proposed Action will also include the installation of two new UG 69kV transmission circuits. One transmission circuit will be installed between the existing Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) Plainview Substation located at 599 Plainview Road in Plainview, New York and the Proposed Substation. A second transmission circuit will be installed between the Proposed Substation and the existing LIPA Ruland Road Substation located at 49 Ruland Road in Melville, New York. In addition, two new UG 13kV distribution exit feeders will be installed and will exit the Proposed Substation to the south and east, respectively. The collective locations of the Proposed Action are referred to as the "Project Site" (see Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The project area is currently served by the existing Plainview and Ruland Road Substations. Recent engineering studies and analysis conducted by PSEG Long Island have concluded that the Proposed Action is needed as a result of growing energy demands exceeding the capacity of the existing substations and circuits in the area. The Proposed Action will provide an adequate and more reliable electric supply and will fulfill future projected loads. The Proposed Action will also address load growth from new developments in the area, specifically the Country Pointe Development, a mixed commercial and residential development.

The Proposed Action's major scope of work elements include the following:

- The Proposed Substation will encompass approximately 0.76 acres and will be constructed within an approximate 11.46 acre parcel of land that is currently owned by Nassau County and used as an existing stormwater recharge basin (identified as Section 13, Block 89, Lot 32 on Nassau County Department of Assessment Land and Tax Maps). One paved access road (approximately 0.30 acres) will be constructed along the northern boundary of the parcel and a grass right-of-way (approximately 0.69 acres) will be established along the western boundary of the parcel for future transmission circuit/distribution feeder maintenance/repair activities. The transmission circuits and distribution exit feeder interconnections will generally follow the path of the access road and right-of-way to connect into the Proposed Substation. Nassau County issued easements to LIPA to construct and operate the Proposed Substation, access road and right-of-way. The Nassau County Planning Commission issued a Negative Declaration for the easements on December 5, 2018.
- Construction activities will involve approximately 9.34 acres of soil disturbance on land within the Proposed Substation parcel, which is predominantly comprised of natural vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs, and grasses). The parcel is currently undeveloped with the exception of three existing stormwater intakes, including one culverted intake, and one overflow discharge pipe. Construction will require clearing of a portion of the existing vegetation at the site, regrading portions of the site, and stormwater improvements, as needed, in order to support substation equipment installations and to provide for adequate stormwater storage capacity. Existing vegetation will remain on the southern and eastern portions of the parcel. With the exception of the Proposed Substation and access road, areas of disturbance will be restored with seed and/or plantings, in accordance with the proposed

draft Landscape Plan. This plan is subject to change based on final Nassau County review and acceptance.

- The Proposed Substation will consist of the installation of two 69/13kV 33MVA transformer banks, two 13kV switchgears and associated equipment (i.e., breakers, switches, bus supports, cable terminations, etc.). Five 60-foot lightning masts will also be installed within the equipment area. An equipment enclosure structure and a battery enclosure structure will also be constructed.
- Installation of two new 69kV UG transmission circuits. One circuit will be installed between the existing LIPA Plainview Substation and the Proposed Substation (approximately 1.66 miles). A second circuit (approximately 3.40 miles) will be installed between the Proposed Substation and will connect to the Ruland Road Substation via three new 70-foot wood transmission riser poles that will be installed just outside the Ruland Road substation fence. Splice vaults will be installed along the transmission route. The transmission circuits will primarily be installed via open trench, with exception of a portion extending from Spagnoli Road under Route 110 to be completed by horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The transmission circuits will primarily be installed within public roadway right-of-way or LIPA-owned property, with the exception of connections into Proposed Substation (easement has been issued) and a small portion traversing below a privately-owned commercial property east of Route 110 (easement will be obtained).
- Limited equipment installations in the northeastern portion of the existing Plainview Substation, including switches, breakers and bus supports. This equipment will be consistent in height with existing substation equipment, at approximately 24 feet above grade.
- Two easements will be acquired from private parties prior to the commencement of construction to support the transmission circuit installation activities. One easement (temporary easement for staging equipment near HDD entry/exit pit) will encompass approximately 15,975 square feet within the mowed lawn of a private property located along the south side of Spagnoli Road, near its intersection with Carlin Court. The second easement (permanent underground cable easement for UG traversing of HDD) will encompass approximately 837 square feet and is located immediately east of Route 110 near its intersection with Spagnoli Road, below a commercial parking lot entranceway.
- Installation of two UG 13kV distribution exit feeders exiting the Proposed Substation. One feeder will extend south of the Proposed Substation and west onto Old Country Road (approximately 0.50 mile). The second feeder will extend east of the Proposed Substation and south onto Round Swamp Road (approximately 0.40 mile). The distribution exit feeders will be installed via open trench. Manholes will be installed along the feeder route. Two existing wood distribution poles will be replaced along the feeder route on Round Swamp Road. These poles will be replaced with new poles that will be no more than 10 feet taller, in the same general locations. One of these poles will be converted to a riser pole.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

To review the Proposed Action's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) with supplemental information (collectively referred to as the "EA") was completed by PSEG Long Island and PS&S Engineering, P.C., (PS&S). The EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. Key findings are outlined below.

LAND USE

The Proposed Substation construction will result in changes to land use of the Nassau County stormwater recharge basin parcel. Of the 11.46-acre Nassau County parcel, approximately 0.74 acres will be future permanent use as the Proposed Substation; approximately 0.30 acres will be utilized for the Proposed Substation access road and approximately 0.69 acres will be utilized as LIPA right-of-way. The remaining approximate 9.71 acres will continue to be utilized as a stormwater recharge basin. With the exception of the Proposed Substation site and access road, disturbed areas will be restored with seed and/or plantings.

The Proposed Substation will be set back from public roadways and will be located immediately adjacent to parking areas associated with commercial properties. The proposed 69kV transmission circuits and 13kV distribution exit feeders will be constructed entirely underground, with the exception of three 70-foot riser poles just outside the fence of the Ruland Road Substation. With the exception of interconnection into the Proposed Substation, the transmission circuits and distribution feeders will be constructed in areas where overhead and underground infrastructure currently exists, either within/along roadways, LIPA right-of-way or within LIPA-owned substations.

The two pole replacements on Round Swamp Road will be consistent in height to existing poles, and will result in no impacts to land use or community character. In addition, the wood riser poles connecting the UG transmission circuit to the Ruland Road Substation will be located adjacent to the Ruland Road Substation, where abundant electrical infrastructure exists. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to existing land uses or character of the area.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Groundwater

Groundwater in the vicinity of the Proposed Action is anticipated to be encountered at depths generally greater than 30 feet below grade, with the exception of the eastern portion of Bethpage Sweet Hollow Road/Spagnoli Road and in the vicinity of the Ruland Road Substation, where groundwater may be encountered at depths less than 30 feet below grade. As such, groundwater is not expected to be encountered in the open trench portions of the Proposed Action. The installation of the 69kV UG transmission circuits via HDD technology will be advanced at depths that interact with the groundwater interface; however, no impact to groundwater will result from the HDD

installation as solid conductor cable is proposed, drilling fluid is inert and non-hazardous, and no pumping of groundwater will occur from the HDD operation.

The Proposed Action will increase the capacity of the existing Nassau County recharge basin. Stormwater quality and volume for the Proposed Action will be addressed in a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and will be prepared in accordance with the requirements and the technical specifications set forth in the NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities Permit No. GP-0-20-001 (NYSDEC SPDES Permit No. GP-0-20-001) and New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual (NYSSMDM) or the "Blue Book". 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 or within the vicinity of the Proposed Action.

Wetlands

A review of NYSDEC GIS data indicates that the Proposed Action will not be located within NYSDEC regulated wetlands nor regulated adjacent areas and as such, no significant adverse impacts to NYSDEC regulated wetlands will occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps depict a freshwater pond and a forested/shrub wetland within the stormwater recharge basin on the Proposed Substation parcel. The stormwater recharge basin is a stormwater control feature that is not considered "Waters of the United States" and subject to federal jurisdiction under the Navigable Waters Protection Rule given that this feature is not located adjacent to a navigable water, does not possess a significant nexus to a navigable water, and is a man-made excavated basin. As such, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to federally regulated wetlands.

The grubbing and regrading of the Proposed Substation parcel will result in temporary construction phase impacts to the 2.36-acre unregulated wetland area present on the parcel. After the regrading and the construction of the Proposed Substation is complete, the parcel will be revegetated with native seed and/or plantings.

Construction activities will adhere to BMPs with regard to erosion and sediment control which will prevent significant adverse impacts to wetlands and surface waters.

Terrestrial Ecological Communities and Vegetation

Given the Proposed Substation construction will require the grubbing and regrading of a 9.34-acre portion of the parcel, construction will result in a disturbance of trees, vegetation and the ecological communities present within the parcel. After construction of the Proposed Substation and access roads, disturbed areas of the parcel will be stabilized and revegetated. Although the Proposed

Substation will result in the permanent loss of approximately 0.6-acres of vegetated cover, no Significant Natural Communities, as defined by NYSDEC, are present within the Proposed Substation parcel. The dominant species covering the Proposed Substation parcel under existing conditions are primarily invasive species listed as prohibited under NYCRR Part 575 and represent poor quality habitat.

Wildlife

The Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife at either the individual or population level. Construction of the Proposed Substation will result in the temporary displacement of all wildlife at the site to the adjacent parcels. Given the close proximity of the Pine Ridge Conservation Area, a 165-acre forested parcel, it is likely that some displaced wildlife will migrate to that area. Given the suburbanized surrounding environment, the wildlife likely to be displaced are habitat generalists and species that are disturbance tolerant. Individuals of these species may temporarily be displaced from the Proposed Substation property during construction. However, they are likely to return to the Proposed Substation parcel once construction is completed.

Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern Species and Significant Habitats

New York Natural Heritage Program (NHP) indicated that no NHP data for the presence of rare or state-listed animals and/or significant natural communities exists for the Project Site or in the adjacent areas. Although USFWS IPaC records identify six federally-listed species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Project Site, suitable habitat for these species was not identified within the Project Site. Given the abundant presence of invasive species and no rare indicator species or particular habitats were found to be present at the Proposed Substation parcel during the site visit, it is unlikely that state or federally-listed threatened or endangered species are present at the Project Site. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on rare, threatened, endangered species or significant natural communities.

VISUAL RESOURCES

A Visual Resource Assessment for the Proposed Action was prepared in accordance with NYSDEC Program Policy "Assessing and Mitigating Visual Impacts". Based on the results of the Visual Resource Assessment, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts on designated visual resources or the visual character of the study area. The Proposed Action will not significantly impair the visual landscape as experienced from 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. Thus, there will be no significant adverse visual impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORIC RESOURCES

A consultation request was submitted to the NYSOPRHP in order to evaluate the potential impact from the Proposed Action on archaeological and/or historic resources within the project area. A response was received from the NYSOPRHP on March 8, 2019 stating that the Proposed Action

will have no impact on archaeological and/or historic resources listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Register of Historic Places.

ENERGY

The Proposed Action will have beneficial impacts to the LIPA transmission and distribution system and the surrounding community, a heavily developed area of Nassau and Suffolk Counties with its many residential, commercial, and institutional uses, through improved reliability and resiliency. The Proposed Action will provide an adequate and more reliable electric supply and will fulfill future projected loads. The Proposed Substation will also address load growth from new developments in the area, specifically the Country Pointe Development, a mixed commercial and residential development. The Proposed Action will not result in an increase in generating capacity. As such, there will be no significant adverse impacts to energy resources.

NOISE AND EMF

Increases in noise levels were determined by comparing future sound levels of proposed noise-generating substation equipment to the daytime and nighttime existing ambient sound level ranges in order to determine the potential for noise impacts. According to the NYSDEC noise policy, "Assessing and Mitigating Noise Impacts", sound pressure level ("SPL") increases from zero to three decibels should have no appreciable effect on receptors; increases of three to six decibels may have the potential for adverse impact only in cases where the most sensitive of receptors are present; and increases of more than six decibels may require a closer analysis of impact potential depending on existing noise levels and character of surrounding land use. NYSDEC Noise Guidance also indicates that the addition of any permanent noise source should not raise ambient levels above 65 dBA in any non-industrial setting, or that noise sources should not exceed ambient levels when ambient levels already exceed 65 dBA.

The Noise Impact Assessment Study identified that the modeled worst-case total noise level impacts from the noise-generating substation equipment at the Proposed Substation and Proposed Substation parcel property lines will not result in any recordable or perceptible noise increase (<0.1 dBA increase) when compared to existing ambient noise levels.

The potential EMF impact of the Proposed Action has been evaluated based on the EMF levels calculated for the Berry Street Substation project located in the Village of Lindenhurst, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York. That project and the Proposed Action consist of similar equipment that will operate at comparable capacities and voltages. Based on a comparative analysis of the Berry Street Substation project, 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 significant adverse operational or construction impacts. During the majority of the Substation work, there will be no impact on traffic given that much of the work will occur within the Proposed Substation parcel. Traffic will be temporarily impacted

during the transmission circuit and distribution exit feeder installation activities (including manhole and splice vault installations, as well as pavement restoration activities), as work will occur within/along public roadways. Traffic will be managed in accordance with municipal road opening requirements and work zone traffic control plans will be developed in coordination with municipalities to ensure safe traffic flow. Flaggers will be deployed any time traffic needs to be regulated.

The Proposed Action will not require full road closures, with the exception of work at major intersections, where detours will be established. Work at these intersections will be conducted during evening hours to minimize traffic impacts and has been coordinated with the local municipalities. All other work activities will be accommodated by partial lane closures/lane modifications to channel traffic appropriately. Further, PSEG Long Island will coordinate with local municipalities regarding the construction work schedule to ensure that traffic does not significantly impact nearby businesses/events.

In the immediate vicinity of construction activity, access to residences and businesses will 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.

Overall, emissions generated during construction of the Proposed Action will be similar to construction emissions from other similar utility construction activities, and will be temporary. Since construction vehicles, worker vehicles and construction equipment are not expected to operate on a continuous basis during any day, any generated air emissions will not result in adverse impacts to air quality. 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 air quality, 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:

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