

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

Project: Ronkonkoma Substation Expansion and Feeders

Date: October 6, 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 and the EA prepared by PSEG Long Island that the Proposed Action described below will not have a significant adverse impact of the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**Name of Action:** Ronkonkoma Substation Expansion and Feeders (“the Proposed Action”)

**Location:** Ronkonkoma Substation 188 Ronkonkoma Ave in the hamlet of Lake Ronkonkoma, New York; Long Island Motor Parkway, Belle Ave, Fir Grove Road, Michigan Street and Pond Ave in the Hamlet of Lake Ronkonkoma, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York and Pond Ave, Church Street, Hawkins Ave, Thorne Street, Carrol Ave, Union Ave and Railroad Ave in the Hamlet of Ronkonkoma, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York; Smithtown Boulevard in the hamlet of Lake Ronkonkoma, Town of Smithtown, Suffolk County, New York

**SEQR Status:** Unlisted

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:** No

**Proposed Project Description:**

The Proposed Action includes the installation of three new 13kV underground (UG) distribution feeders and conversion and reconductoring work (C&R) for associated overhead (OH) circuits along public roadways or rights of way in the hamlets of Ronkonkoma and Lake Ronkonkoma (see **Figure 1**). The Proposed Action is required to provide reliable service for future development within the surrounding area, particularly for the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) facility expansion, the Ronkonkoma Hub development, and additional mixed-use development proposed in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action will also reinforce the existing LIPA distribution system.

Three underground 13kV feeders will originate at the Ronkonkoma Substation, which is located at 188 Ronkonkoma Ave in the hamlet of Lake Ronkonkoma, Town of Brookhaven, New York. One of the underground feeders will terminate adjacent to the LIRR Ronkonkoma Station, the second will terminate at the intersection of Carroll Ave and Railroad Ave and the third underground feeder will terminate at the intersection of Ronkonkoma Ave and Church Lane. All distribution feeders will be installed via horizontal directional drill (HDD). Electrical appurtenances including fourteen (14)

manholes will be installed along the UG distribution feeder routes. In addition, electrical equipment and interconnections will be installed within the limits of the Ronkonkoma Substation to accommodate the feeder installation. The OH C&R work will replace approximately 7,760' of existing OH wire and in-kind replacement of sixty-eight (68) existing wood utility poles. The new pole installations will be wood, no more than 10 feet taller than the existing poles in the immediate areas and will be installed in-line with the existing utility poles.

In addition to the three UG distribution feeders and OH C&R work, new equipment to be installed within the existing Ronkonkoma Substation includes: one 138-13kV transformer, one control house that includes two battery enclosures, one 13 kV switchgear, three 138kV gas circuit breakers, four gang operated disconnect switches, two motor operated circuit switches, two potential transformers and one control potential transformers. Lastly, the Proposed Action requires the replacement of three transmission poles and the removal of two transmission poles. The three existing wood transmission poles to be replaced are all located within the Ronkonkoma Substation, and will be replaced with steel poles and result in height increases of less than ten feet after embedment.

#### **Reasons Supporting This Determination:**

Based on a review of the project's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 1, 2 & 3 (SEAF) was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is an "Unlisted" Action as that term is defined in SEQRA. The SEAF evaluates the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and the character of the area, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources.

#### ***Land Use and Community Character***

##### *Land Use*

The Proposed Action involves the installation of distribution feeders beneath existing rights-of-way and the installation of aboveground equipment, including steel transmission poles, within existing industrial facilities (Ronkonkoma Substation), adjacent to existing equipment south of the LIRR as well as the in-kind replacement of existing equipment along developed roadways. The Proposed Action will not result in any changes to land use. Therefore, the Proposed Action will have no significant adverse impacts on land use and the Proposed Action will be consistent with the current character of the area.

##### *Noise*

The distribution feeder cables will be installed underground and the operation of the cables will not result in any changes to ambient background noise levels. Sound propagation modeling was performed for the future worst-case scenario for the operation of the aboveground equipment at the Substation. Aboveground equipment analyzed includes two existing transformer banks, the new transformer bank and the PTAC and exhaust fan for the new battery enclosure. The sound propagation model and report are included as **Attachment A**.

The sound propagation modeling results indicate that the projected future worst-case noise levels at the nearest property boundaries of the Substation will be no greater than 49.7 dBA at the nearest residential property receptors located along the western property boundary of the Substation, and no greater than

47.2 dBA at the nearest commercial property receptors located directly north of the Substation. Given that existing ambient background noise levels which range between 49 dBA and 64 dBA in both the daytime and nighttime periods are greater than the modeled noise levels, the Proposed Action will not result in any perceptible noise increase above existing ambient noise levels. Given the above, there will be no significant adverse noise impact generated as a result of the Proposed Action.

### *Visual*

The Proposed Action includes the installation of new equipment within the Ronkonkoma substation as well as the replacement of sixty-eight (68) distribution poles and three (3) transmission poles, and the removal of two (2) transmission poles. The visual character of the substation is characterized by existing steel and wood utility poles, transmission and distribution structures including switchgear, a control house, bus work, and transformers. All new equipment within the substation will be of comparable height to existing similar structures. As such the proposed new equipment will not have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area.

The Proposed Action includes the replacement of three existing wood transmission poles located within the Ronkonkoma Substation. The three wood transmission poles will be replaced with steel poles and will result in height increases of less than ten feet after embedment. Various steel poles ranging from 56' above grade to 115' above grade already exist within the Ronkonkoma Substation; steel poles are also located to the east and west of the substation along the existing transmission right-of-way. The steel replacement poles will be approximately 64' above grade after embedment and thus will be significantly shorter than the existing 115' steel poles within the substation. Visual Simulations depicting existing conditions as well as the steel replacement poles were prepared and are included as **Attachment B**. 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 scenic, open space, or other resources. Therefore, the proposed transmission pole replacements will not have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area.

All sixty-eight (68) distribution poles are located along developed roadways in predominately residential areas. The poles to be replaced will be in kind with height increases less than ten feet. No tree trimming will occur as part of the Proposed Action. As such the replacement of the distribution poles will not have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area.

### ***Historic/Archaeological Resources***

The Proposed Action is not located within, or substantially contiguous to any property listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of 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 for the Proposed Action was submitted to the OPRHP on April 16, 2020. In a findings letter dated April 21, 2020 OPRHP made a determination that no properties, including archaeological and/or historic resources, listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places will be impacted by the Proposed Action (see

**Attachment C).** The Proposed Action will occur entirely within previously disturbed areas. Given this information, no impacts to archaeological and/or historic resources will occur.

**For Further Information:**

Contact Person: Daniel Rogers, Manager, Estimating, permitting & 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*

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Rick Shansky  
Senior Vice President of Operations Oversight  
Dated: October 6, 2020