

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

Project: 8QR Mount Sinai Substation - AMI Pole Installation Project (the “Proposed Action”)

Date: January 15, 2021

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: 8QR Mount Sinai Substation - AMI Pole Installation Project (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Within the northwestern portion of the 8QR Mount Sinai Substation, located approximately 100’ northeast of the intersection of Spruce Street and Abby Road, Hamlet of Port Jefferson Station, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action involves the installation of one 70-foot Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) pole, with associated antenna equipment, within the northwestern portion of the 8QR Mount Sinai Substation, which is located approximately 100’ northeast of the intersection of Spruce Street and Abby Road (aka Central Avenue), Hamlet of Port Jefferson Station, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York (see Figure 1). The pole being utilized is a standard Class H-1 wood distribution pole. The pole will be embedded approximately 10 feet in the ground and will extend approximately 60 feet above ground level (agl). Two sets of two antennas (each two feet in length) will be affixed to the pole on antenna arms at heights of 48 and 55 feet agl. Each antenna arm will extend off the pole approximately 24 inches. The antennas will connect to a single router, affixed to the pole at approximately 20 feet agl. A photograph of a typical AMI pole and associated antennae is provided in Figure 2.

The antennas will collect electric usage data from nearby AMI Smart Meters, which are connected to customers' houses and businesses, and will utilize the router to transmit this data to a central data server. The Proposed Action will enable PSEG Long Island to analyze electrical usage across its service area, which will allow more in-depth planning for improvements to existing infrastructure. Additionally, consistent with the AMI installation program, the Proposed Action will allow customers the ability to more closely monitor their electric usage.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

Based on a review of the Proposed Action's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, a Short Environmental Assessment Form ("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.

- The Mount Sinai Substation is located in a predominantly suburban area characterized primarily by residential uses. There are currently several 100-foot tall steel transmission poles located immediately to the south of the substation within an existing right-of-way. Given this information, and based upon the proposed installation of a standard wooden, 70-foot distribution pole, the Proposed Action will be significantly smaller in height than the utility poles in the vicinity of the Proposed Action and will be consistent with the existing utility infrastructure and character of the area. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse visual impacts or impacts to land use.
- The Proposed Action is not located within or adjacent to any properties eligible for listing on the State or National Register for Historic Places. In addition, the Proposed Action is located within a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) designated archaeologically sensitive area, however, all work will occur within previously disturbed areas. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to these resources.
- The Proposed Action is not located within any state or federally regulated wetlands or wetland adjacent areas. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to these areas.
- The Proposed Action is not located within the 100-year floodplain, nor will it be located within the New York State coastal zone. The Proposed Action is located within the Central Suffolk Pine Barrens Special Groundwater Protection Area (SGPA), which is identified as a Critical Environmental Area (CEA). Based on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Long Island Depth to Water Viewer, groundwater in the vicinity of the

Mount Sinai Substation is located at depths greater than 128 feet below ground surface. Excavation activities associated with the Proposed Action will not extend to these depths, and will involve a minimal footprint resulting in a negligible increase to impervious surfaces, if any, and will not significantly impair groundwater recharge. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the SPGA.

- There are no species of animal, or associated habitats listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered at the site of the Proposed Action. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to any endangered or threatened species or habitats.
- The Proposed Action is not located on or adjoining any properties listed in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) environmental remediation database. As such, significant adverse impacts to human health are not anticipated during construction or operation of the Proposed Action.
- The AMI equipment does not generate any audible noise. As a result, operation of the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse noise impacts.
- The antennas to be installed on the proposed AMI pole will utilize radiofrequencies (RF) ranging between 902.3 megahertz (MHz) and 927.9 MHz and operate within the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) maximum permissible exposure limit (MPE) for RF power density ranges. Therefore, the operation of the AMI equipment will not result in any significant adverse impacts related to RF exposure.
- The Proposed Action will not cause any significant operational or construction impacts.
- The Proposed Action will not impact access to residences and businesses.
- Short term impacts to ambient or background noise levels and vibration levels may be experienced during construction for the Proposed Action. However, excavation related to the pole installation is anticipated to last for approximately fifteen minutes, and all construction activities will be temporary in nature and 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:

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Dated: January 15, 2021