

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

Project: Massapequa Substation AMI Collector Pole Installation (the “Proposed Action”)

Date: February 16, 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: Massapequa Substation AMI Collector Pole Installation (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: In the northwest corner of the Massapequa Substation property, located at 13 Brooklyn Avenue, hamlet of Massapequa, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau 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, in the northwest corner of the Massapequa Substation property, immediately north and outside of the existing perimeter fencing. The substation is located at 13 Brooklyn Avenue in the hamlet of Massapequa, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York (see Figure 1). The pole being utilized is a standard Class H-1 wood utility pole. The pole will be embedded approximately nine feet in the ground then extending approximately 61 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 49 and 56 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 customer's 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 for 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:

The Proposed Action is an "Unlisted" Action as defined in SEQRA. An Environmental Assessment ("EA") was completed by PSEG Long Island. The EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. Based on a review of the Proposed Action's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, a Short Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 ("SEAF") was prepared. 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 Massapequa Substation is located in a predominantly industrial and residential area. An existing wood communication pole extending to approximately 70+ feet agl is located in the western portion of the substation property and transmission poles ranging from 55 to 75 feet in height (extending to approximately 47 to 65 feet above grade level) are located along Seaford Avenue and Brooklyn Avenue, immediately west and south of the substation property, respectively. In addition, a monopole extending to approximately 100 feet agl is located on the Massapequa Fire Department Property, located just west of the Massapequa Substation. Given this information, and based upon the proposed installation of a standard wooden, 70-foot utility pole, the Proposed Action will be consistent in height and material with 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 property listed or eligible for listing on the State or National Register for Historic Places. 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 February 9, 2021. In a findings letter dated February 12, 2021, 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 A). Given this information, no impacts to archaeological and/or historic resources are anticipated.

- 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 will not be completed within the 100-year floodplain, nor will it be located within the New York State coastal zone, or any Critical Environmental Area (CEA). Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to these areas.
- The Proposed Action may require minor tree trimming. However, no removal of vegetation will be required. 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 these species or habitats.
- The Proposed Action is not located on or adjacent to properties that have been the subject for remediation for hazardous waste. Several New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) spills were identified in association with the Massapequa Substation; however, these spills are reported as closed by the NYSDEC. PSEG Long Island's contractor will be required to submit an acceptable Health and Safety Plan (HASP) to PSEG Long Island prior to construction. Proper health and safety protocols will be implemented during soil excavation activities. 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. Short-term traffic disruptions may be experienced and will be addressed via traffic control implementation and coordination with local municipalities for work within municipal roadways.
- 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: February 16, 2021