

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

Project: Newbridge Road Substation AMI Collector Equipment Installation (the “Proposed Action”)

Date: February 17, 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: Newbridge Road Substation AMI Collector Equipment Installation (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: In the northern portion of the Newbridge Road Substation property, north and outside the existing substation fence, located at 341 Newbridge Road, hamlet of Levittown, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action involves the installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) equipment on an existing 70-foot wood utility pole (extending to approximately 60 feet above ground level [agl]), located immediately north and outside of the existing Newbridge Road Substation fence (see Figure 1). The Newbridge Road Substation is located at 341 Newbridge Road, in the hamlet of Levittown, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York. Insulators are present on the top of the existing pole. However, the pole is not currently being utilized to support active electric infrastructure, and the existing insulators will be removed prior to construction.

Two sets of two antennas (each two feet in length and 1.3 inches in diameter) will be affixed to the pole on antenna arms at heights of approximately 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 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 Newbridge Road Substation is located in a predominantly residential area. The AMI equipment will be installed on an existing 70-foot wood utility pole (extending to approximately 60 feet agl). The narrow width of the antennas minimize their potential visibility. In addition, steel transmission poles ranging from 85 to 105 feet in height, and steel bus work extending to 76 feet in height, are located within the Newbridge Road Substation, immediately adjacent to the Proposed Action, and several 70-foot wood transmission poles located in the vicinity of the substation (extending to approximately 60 feet agl), along the eastern side of Newbridge Road immediately east, southeast and northeast of the substation. Given this information and based upon the installation of AMI equipment on an existing standard wooden, 70-foot utility pole, the Proposed Action will be consistent with the existing utility infrastructure in and around the substation. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse visual impacts or impacts to land use.
- The Proposed Action is located in close proximity to a single arch bridge located on Salisbury Park Drive, which crosses over the Wantagh Parkway (a designated New York State Scenic Byway) northwest of the substation. This single arch bridge, constructed in 1938, is eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places. A consultation request for the Proposed Action was submitted to the OPRHP on October 26, 2020. In a findings

letter dated October 27, 2020, OPRHP made a determination that no properties, including archaeological and/or historic resources, listed in or eligible for the New York State or 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.
- 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.
- One NYSDEC remedial site (New Cassel/Hicksville Groundwater Contamination [NYSDEC Site No. 130215]), and several spills (all reported closed) were identified at or adjacent to the Newbridge Road Substation. However, since the Proposed Action will not require any ground intrusive activities, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to human health 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. 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 17, 2021