

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

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

Location: In the southeast portion of the Plainview Substation, located at 559 Plainview Road, hamlet of Plainview, 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 wood Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) pole, with associated antenna equipment, in the southeast portion of the Plainview Substation, immediately east of the substation perimeter fence, but within the substation property in an existing cleared area. The Plainview Substation is located at 559 Plainview Road in the hamlet of Plainview, 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 and 1.3 inches in diameter) 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 the 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 Plainview Substation is located in a predominantly residential area. Existing overhead utility infrastructure is located in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Action. An 80-foot wood communication pole (extending to a height of approximately 70 feet agl) is located approximately 100 feet southeast of the Proposed Action, between the Plainview Substation and Plainview Road. In addition, several 40 and 45 foot utility poles (extending to heights of approximately 34 to 38.5 feet agl) are located immediately west of the substation property along a right-of-way, and to the east of the substation property along Plainview Road. Trees bound the southern, eastern and western perimeters of the substation. No trees or other vegetation will be removed as a result of the Proposed Action. As shown in Attachment A, the proposed AMI pole is shorter in height than the existing communication pole and will be partially screened by existing vegetation. In addition, the narrow width of the antennas minimize their potential visibility. The Proposed Action may be visible from Plainview Road and properties located in the vicinity of the Plainview Substation. However, due to intervening vegetation, topography, and development, the Proposed Action will not significantly interfere with, or reduce the public's or area residents' enjoyment and/or appreciation of the appearance of designated scenic or aesthetic resources considered under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Visual Policy (DEP-00-2/Assessing and Mitigating Visual and Aesthetic Impacts, 12/13/2019). Given this information and based upon the proposed installation of a standard wooden, 70-foot utility pole, the Proposed Action will be consistent with existing infrastructure in the vicinity of the Proposed Action, and 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 November 2, 2020. In a findings letter dated November 4, 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 B). The entirety of the Proposed Action will occur entirely within previously disturbed areas. 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.
- The Proposed Action is not located on or adjoining any properties listed in the NYSDEC environmental remediation database. Several NYSDEC spills were identified in association with the Plainview 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 17, 2021