

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

Project: Babylon Substation - AMI Pole Installation Project (the “Proposed Action”)

Date: March 25, 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: Babylon Substation - AMI Pole Installation Project (the “Proposed Action”)

Location: Within the western portion of the Babylon Substation, located at 20 Cedar Street, Village of Babylon, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action involves the installation of one 70-foot AMI pole and associated antenna equipment within the western portion of the Babylon Substation, which is located at 20 Cedar Street, Village of Babylon, Town of Babylon, Suffolk 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 10 feet in the ground then extending 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 feet and 55 feet agl. Each antenna arm will extend off the pole approximately 24 inches. The antenna will connect to a single router, affixed to the pole at approximately 20 feet agl. A photograph of a typical AMI pole and associated antennas is provided in Figure 2.

The antenna 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 Babylon Substation is located in an area characterized primarily by residential and commercial uses with tracks for the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) Babylon Branch located directly south of the Proposed Action. Several wood utility poles associated with an overhead transmission line are located within the Babylon Substation, including a 75-foot transmission pole and 110-foot transmission pole, extending to heights of approximately 66 feet and 97 feet agl, respectively. A 100-foot pole with a 20-foot antenna extension was recently installed within the substation as part of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funded storm hardening initiative for the operation of distribution switches (the “FEMA DA Project”). The FEMA DA Project was the subject of a separate environmental review pursuant to SEQRA. In addition, several wood distribution poles ranging from 35 feet to 50 feet (extending to approximately 29 feet and 43 feet agl) are located along Cedar Street immediately north of the Babylon Substation. Given this information and based upon the proposed installation of a standard wooden, 70-foot utility pole, the Proposed Action 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. 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. In a findings letter dated November 19, 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 A). In addition, all work will occur 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 is not located within the 100-year floodplain, nor will it be located within the New York State coastal zone. The Proposed Action is not located within a Critical Environmental Area (CEA). Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to these areas.
- There are no species of animal listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered at the Site of the Proposed Action. One New York State Protected Bird and several threatened or endangered plant species (flowering plants) have been identified as occurring with the vicinity. However, the proposed pole will be installed within a previously disturbed area of an existing substation where no plant or animal habitats exist. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to any endangered or threatened species or habitats.
- The Babylon Substation adjoins one property listed in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) environmental remediation database. NYSDEC Site Code B00132, Petroleum Spill at Babylon Golf Course, is located northeast of the Babylon Substation. This site is designated with Classification Code “N” (No Further Action at this Time). Given the distance of this site from the location of the proposed AMI pole (>550 feet), the nature of the contamination at this site (petroleum spill caused by a leaking storage tank), and the minimal disturbance required for installation of the Proposed Action, 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:

Contact Person: Erin Gorman, Manager Environmental Projects & Permitting
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

Rick Shansky

Senior Vice President of Operations Oversight

Dated: March 25, 2021