

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

Project: Hospital Road 13kV Overhead Pole Relocation and Underground Cable Installation (the "Proposed Action")

Date: March 1, 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: Hospital Road 13kV Overhead Pole Relocation and Underground Cable Installation (the "Proposed Action")

Location: Portions of Hospital Road south of Fish Thicket Road, along the Sunrise Highway South Service Road, and east of Hospital Road running north and south across the Sunrise Highway, Hamlet of East Patchogue, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action is being carried out in support of a New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) bridge widening and replacement project located at the intersection of Sunrise Highway (NY-27) and Hospital Road. As a result of the proposed NYSDOT construction, Hospital Road will also be widened. The Proposed Action includes the removal and relocation of the existing 13kV overhead ("OH") distribution line along Hospital Road. The line will be relocated to the Sunrise Highway North Service Road ("North Service Road") and Sunrise Highway South Service Road ("South Service Road") as described below:

- Ten (10) existing utility poles located along the west side of Hospital Road will be relocated approximately 5 feet to 25 feet of their existing locations. These poles will be located in the widened right-of-way along Hospital Road;
- Three (3) existing poles located along the west side of Hospital Road and between the North Service Road and South Service Road will be removed;
- Seven (7) new poles with OH line will be installed along the south side of the South Service Road;
- Two (2) existing poles with OH line will be replaced along the north side of the North Service Road; and

- Approximately 700 feet of underground (“UG”) cable and conduit will be installed underneath Sunrise Highway interconnecting the north side of the North Service Road to the newly installed OH lines on the south side of the South Service Road.

The location of the Proposed Action is more particularly shown on Figures 1 and 2. The proposed poles to be installed will range from 39 feet to 48 feet in height above grade consistent with the existing infrastructure. All poles to be relocated will increase in height by 10 feet or less. Additionally, the approximately 700 feet of UG distribution cable and conduit to be installed will be located approximately 750 feet east of Hospital Road, from the South Service Road to the North Service Road. The UG cable and conduit will be installed via Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). Three (3) drill pits will be required, one (1) located near proposed pole #7 to be located along the South Service Road; one (1) located near the proposed pole replacement along the North Service Road (Pole #65); and one (1) located approximately 100 feet south of Pole #65 (in the grass road shoulder located south of the South Service Road). Each drill pit will be a maximum of 5' x 8' in size. The UG cable will connect to each of these poles via a UG riser. Figure 2 shows the specific locations of the pole work and UG activities. Ground disturbance will primarily take place within previously disturbed areas including paved roadways and adjacent rights-of-way. The disturbed areas will be restored in kind to pre-construction conditions upon completion of the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action will result in less than 0.01 acres of ground disturbance. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as March 2021 and is anticipated to take approximately two (2) months.

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 Parts 1, 2 & 3 (“SEAF”) was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is an “Unlisted” Action as defined in SEQRA.

The SEAF evaluates the effect of the Proposed Action upon land use, natural resources, visual resources and community character, energy use, environmental hazards and human health resources. Since the Proposed Action is located within previously developed areas, including mowed roadsides, and no environmentally sensitive areas exist nearby, there will be no significant impacts to natural resources.

Appendix A – Visual Renderings shows three (3) visual renderings of the proposed new poles. These poles will be located along the south side of the South Service Road and immediately east of its intersection with Hospital Road. With the exception of a 7-Eleven gas station and convenience store, this span of public road right-of-way is primarily undeveloped. Residential and commercial uses are located adjacent to the undeveloped land. There are several existing utility poles located along the west side of Hospital Road, which will be relocated approximately 25 feet of their existing locations as part of the Proposed Action. The intersection contains existing OH wires associated with traffic signals and the new poles will be less than 10 feet taller than the existing nearby poles that are located along Hospital Road. As such, the proposed OH electrical distribution poles and wires will be consistent with the existing visual character at this intersection.

The remaining portion of the right-of-way (from Pole #3 at the west to Pole #7 at the east) currently contains no OH infrastructure in the visual landscape. However, as illustrated in View 2 and View 3, existing trees are similar in height to the proposed poles and the existing tree line will serve to minimize visual impacts of the proposed OH poles. The closest existing poles to the proposed new pole line range

in height from 34 feet to 39 feet above grade. See Table 1 below for the specific pole heights of proposed pole modifications and see Figure 2 – Aerial Site Location Map. No new pole will be higher than 49 feet, which is consistent with the surrounding infrastructure. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to the visual landscape at the intersection of Hospital Road and the South Service Road will occur. Further, based on a search of the Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) database, there are no New York State listed cultural or historic building resources located nearby¹. There is a public space located 780± feet (0.15 miles) to the west of the proposed OH poles, which consists of a portion of the mowed roadside edge of the South Service Road. However, this area does not contain a pathway for pedestrians or other visitors and it is not suitable for recreational use. The Fish Thicket Land Preserve, also a public space, is located 1,960± feet (0.37 miles) northwest of the proposed new poles. Due to the distance and the tree cover between the Fish Thicket Land Preserve and the proposed OH poles, these poles will not be visible from the location of the preserve. Therefore, the proposed OH poles will not adversely impact the visual landscape as experienced from scenic or aesthetic resources of concern nor interfere with or reduce the public's, or area residents' enjoyment and/or appreciation of the appearance of recognized visual resources. As such, there will be no significant adverse visual impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

Table 1: Pole Modifications

Existing Pole No.	Existing Height after embedment (feet above ground level (agl), rounded up)	Action	Proposed Height after embedment (feet above ground level (agl), rounded up)	Change in height after embedment (feet)
1 (Hospital Road) and 69	39±	Relocation (20-25' west)	39±	0±
2 (Hospital Road)	39±	Relocation (20-25' west)	43±	<5
68	39±	Replacement	48±	9±
65	30±	Replacement	39±	9±
23	39±	Relocation (20-25' west)	48±	9±
22 and 21	43±	Removal	--	--
20	39±	Removal	--	--
19	39±	Relocation (5-21' west)	48±	9±

¹ New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (NYOPRHP). Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) database search. Web. 22 Oct 2020.

18	39±	Relocation (5-21' west)	43±	<5
17, 16 and 15	34±	Relocation (5-21' west)	39±	<5
14	30±	Relocation (5-21' west)	39±	9±
1 (Sunrise Highway South Service Road)	--	Install	48±	--
2 (Sunrise Highway South Service Road)	--	Install	43±	--
3, 4, 5, 6 and 7	--	Install	39±	--

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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