

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

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

**Date:** March 4, 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:** Levittown Substation AMI Collector Pole Installation (the “Proposed Action”)

**Location:** Immediately west of the Levittown Substation, located at 277 Hicksville 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 one 70-foot Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) pole, with associated antenna equipment, immediately west of the Levittown Substation, which is located at 277 Hicksville Road, in the hamlet of Levittown, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York (see Figure 1). The pole will be installed just outside the substation fence, within the limits of the LIPA-owned substation property. The pole being utilized is a standard Class H-1 wood distribution 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 Levittown Substation is located in a predominantly commercial and residential area with some industrial uses, as well. Several overhead transmission lines run west to east along a LIPA right-of-way located immediately north of the substation, consisting of 55 to 95-foot steel and wood transmission poles and towers (extending approximately 47 to 83 feet agl). These transmission lines traverse a Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) track yard that is not accessible by the public. Directly to the west of the substation is a Town of Hempstead Levittown Water District water tower, extending over 100 feet in height. Approximately 300 feet northwest of the substation on a Nassau County Police Department – Eight Precinct property is a communications monopole extending to an approximate height of 100 feet. Further, there is a vegetative buffer to the east, south and west of the substation with trees having approximate heights ranging between 20 feet and 50 feet above grade. Given this information, and based upon the proposed installation of a standard wooden, 70-foot utility pole, the Proposed Action will be significantly smaller in height than the existing utility infrastructure and will be consistent with the 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. In addition, the Proposed Action is not located within a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) designated archaeologically sensitive area. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to these resources.
- 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 AMI pole will be installed just west of the existing Levittown Substation fence, within LIPA-owned property. Certain small trees and vegetation (approximately 0.1 acre) to the southwest of the substation will require clearing in order to accommodate the pole installation. The proposed clearing area is located on Figure 1. 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, removal of a relatively small quantity of existing vegetation will not result in significant adverse impacts to these species or habitats.
- The Proposed Action is located above the Navy Grumman Groundwater Plume (NYSDEC Site No. 130003A/B). Depth to groundwater at the Levittown Substation is approximately 35 feet below ground surface. As such, groundwater will not be encountered during the construction or operation of the Proposed Action, nor will the Proposed Action interfere with any ongoing or planned remedial efforts. Several New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) spills were identified in association with the Levittown 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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/s/ Rick Shansky

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Dated: March 4, 2021