

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

Project: Brightwaters Substation New Bank, Switchgear, and Feeders

Date: July 14, 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 (LIPA) has determined, based on information provided by and the EA prepared by PSEG Long Island, that the Proposed Action described below will not have a significant adverse impact of the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Brightwaters Substation New Bank, Switchgear, and Feeders (“the Proposed Action”)

Location: Brightwaters Substation; Wohseepee Drive, Manor Lane, Orinico Drive, Ridgeway Boulevard, Hiawatha Drive, Hyman Ave, Abbot Place, South Country Road, and McCall Ave in the hamlet of West Bay Shore, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York; Orinico Drive, Pease Lane, Ryan Street, Merrit Street, Keith Lane, Hellwig Lane, and Montauk Highway in the hamlet of West Islip, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York; Orinico Drive, Hiawatha Drive and Union Boulevard in the Village of Brightwaters, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York; Sunset Road, West Main Street, Bay Ave, and 4th Avenue in the hamlet of Bay Shore, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York.

SEQR Status: Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: No

Proposed Action Description:

The Proposed Action includes the installation of one 69-13kV transformer, one 13kV switchgear, two 69 kV gas circuit breakers, and one circuit switcher at the Brightwaters Substation, which is located on in the hamlet of West Bay Shore, Town of Islip, Suffolk County New York. The Proposed Action also includes the installation of three new 13kV underground (UG) distribution feeders and conversion and reconductoring work (C&R) for associated overhead (OH) circuits along public roadways or rights of way in the hamlets of West Bay Shore, Bay Shore, West Islip, and the Village of Brightwaters (see **Figure 1 Project Location Map** and **Figures 2a-2b Aerial Maps**). The three new 13kV UG distribution feeders will be interconnected to existing OH circuits that will be reductedored to meet customer demand. The first of the UG feeders will terminate on Orinico Drive west of Malts Avenue. The second will terminate on Orinico Drive west of Myrtle Avenue. The third underground feeder will terminate on Orinico Drive west of Ridgeway Avenue. All distribution feeders will be installed via horizontal directional drill. Electrical appurtenances including twelve manholes and five 45’ riser poles will be installed along the UG distribution feeder routes. Lastly, the Proposed Action requires the in-kind replacement of three transmission poles located within the Brightwaters Substation property but outside of the fence line. These

will be replaced with wood transmission poles, and result in height increases of less than ten feet after embedment.

The Proposed Action is required to provide reliable service for additional electric demand for Good Samaritan Hospital and future development within the surrounding area. The Proposed Action will also reinforce the existing LIPA distribution system. Overall, the total disturbance area for the Proposed Action is approximately 0.52 acres.

The OH distribution C&R work includes the replacement of approximately 13,023' of existing OH wire, the in-kind replacement of eighty-nine existing wood utility poles, and installation of twelve new wood utility poles. Two wood poles will increase by a height of 15 feet from 30 feet to 45 feet, which will remain consistent with the existing poles in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Action. The remaining eighty-seven poles to be replaced will not increase more than 10 feet in height. The new pole installations will be wood, no more than 10 feet taller than the existing poles in the immediate areas, and will be installed in-line with the existing utility poles.

UG C&R work consists of the installation of two UG feeder dips to service Good Samaritan Hospital. The feeder dip on the east side of the hospital is approximately 738' and the dip on the west side is approximately 687'. The new UG feeders will connect to existing OH utilities at one new pole and one existing pole, which will be utilized for the risers.

Land Use

The Proposed Action involves the installation of distribution feeders beneath existing rights-of-way, the installation of aboveground equipment within existing industrial facilities (Brightwaters Substation), and the installation and in-kind replacement of existing equipment along developed roadways. The Proposed Action will not result in any changes to land use. Therefore, the Proposed Action will have no significant adverse impacts on land use and the Proposed Action will be consistent with the current character of the area.

Noise

The distribution feeder cables will be installed UG and the operation of the cables will not result in any changes to ambient background noise levels. Sound propagation modeling was performed for the future worst-case scenario for the operation of the aboveground equipment at the Brightwaters Substation. Existing aboveground equipment analyzed includes three existing transformer banks and modeling included the addition of a new transformer bank. The sound propagation model and report are included as **Attachment A**.

The existing daytime sound levels measured/observed at the Brightwaters Substation property line varied between 52 dBA at the eastern site perimeter and 61 dBA at the western site perimeter. Existing nighttime sound levels measured/observed at the Brightwaters Substation property line varied between 45 dBA at eastern site perimeter and 60 dBA at western site perimeter. The sound propagation modeling results indicate that the projected future worst-case noise levels at the nearest residential property receptors to the Brightwaters Substation, which is located along the northwestern property boundary of the Substation, will be no greater than 60 dBA (see Table 1 below). A map depicting the location of each receptor is included in **Attachment A**. The existing measured sound levels at each receptor location are shown in a range that represents the high and low values captured over each monitoring period. Per industry

standards, the modeling of expected noise levels for maximum existing and proposed equipment utilizes a single value (as opposed to a range of values). As such, modeled total sound levels represents a comparison of the single mid-point value of the existing range against the future conditions.

Table 1: Sound Propagation Summary Table

Modeling Period	Receptor Location	Range of Existing Measured Sound Levels (dBA)	Mid-point Utilized for Sound Modeling (dBA)	Total Sound Levels with All Equipment Operating at Full Load (dBA)
Daytime	Western Site Perimeter, Residential Receptor adjacent to 86 Mystic Circle	58-61	59	60
	Northern Perimeter, School Receptor along Wohseepee Drive	55-57	56	58
	Southern Site Limits, Residential Receptor adjacent to 201 Pleasant Drive	52-56	54	55
	Eastern Site Perimeter, Residential Receptor at the end of Rowe Place	52-55	53	56
	Residential Receptor Intersection of Wohseepee Drive and Asharoken Boulevard	54-57	55	55
Nighttime	Western Site Perimeter, Residential Receptor adjacent to 86 Mystic Circle	55-60	57	59
	Northern Perimeter, School Receptor along Wohseepee Drive	50-55	52	56
	Southern Site Limits, Residential Receptor adjacent to 201 Pleasant Drive	46-50	47	49
	Eastern Site Perimeter, Residential Receptor at the end of Rowe Place	45-50	47	48
	Residential Receptor Intersection of Wohseepee Drive and Asharoken Boulevard	46-51	48	48

The sound propagation model shows total sound levels will not increase more than 4 dBA over the measured mid-point level at any of the receptor locations. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Program Policy for Assessing and Mitigation Noise Impacts states that any increase of 5 dBA or less results in unnoticed to tolerable changes to ambient noise conditions. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any perceptible noise increase above existing ambient noise levels. Given the above, there will be no significant adverse noise impact generated as a result of the Proposed Action.

Visual

The Proposed Action includes the installation of new equipment within the Brightwaters Substation as well as the replacement of eighty-six distribution poles and three transmission poles, and the installation of twelve new distribution poles. The visual character of the substation includes utility poles, transmission and distribution structures, including switchgear, a control house, bus work, and transformers. The tallest existing structure within the substation, excluding utility poles, is 38 feet in height. The tallest new structure within the substation, excluding utility poles will also be 38 feet. All new equipment within the substation will be comparable in height to the existing structures. As such, the proposed new equipment will not have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area.

The Proposed Action includes the replacement of three existing wood transmission poles located within the Brightwaters Substation property. One pole will be relocated approximately 20 feet west of its existing location; a second pole will be relocated approximately 25 feet east of its existing location. The three wood transmission poles will be replaced with wood transmission poles and will result in height increases of less than ten feet after embedment. Therefore, the proposed transmission pole replacements will not change the visual conditions from the surrounding area.

The eighty-six distribution pole replacements and twelve new distribution poles are located along developed roadways in predominately residential areas. The poles to be replaced will be in-kind. The new pole installations will be wood, no more than 10 feet taller than the existing poles in the immediate vicinity, and will be installed in-line with the existing utility poles. Two wood poles will increase by a height of 15 feet from 30 feet to 45 feet. The heights will remain similar to that of existing poles in the immediate vicinity, which range from 30 feet to 45 feet. The remaining four new distribution poles will result in height increases less than ten feet. As such, the replacement of the distribution poles will not have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area.

Historic/Archaeological Resources

The Proposed Action is not located within, or substantially contiguous to any property listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of 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 April 18, 2021. In a findings letter dated April 21, 2021, 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 Proposed Action will occur entirely within previously disturbed areas. Given this information, no impacts to archaeological and/or historic resources will occur.

New York State Coastal Zone

Portions of the Proposed Action is located within the New York State Coastal Boundary and a Coastal Assessment Form (CAF) has been completed. The CAF did not identify any New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats within or adjacent to the Proposed Action. There will be no significant adverse impact to any Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat as the Proposed Action is confined to previously disturbed portion of upland areas and the Proposed Action will not result in changes to runoff patterns that would impact the Coastal Zone. Per 19 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 600.4, the CAF has been filed with the New York State Secretary.

New York State Regulated Wetlands

The replacement of two distribution utility poles located on McCall Avenue, south of Barbara Place (Pole #4 and Pole #5) are located within a NYSDEC regulated freshwater wetland adjacent area. These pole installation/replacement activities are authorized under PSEG Long Island's NYSDEC Permit #1-9901-00011/00026. Erosion and sediment control measures (i.e. silt fence) will be utilized around the two replacement poles described above. The required Notice of Commencement was submitted to the NYSDEC on January 27, 2021. As such, the Proposed Action will not impact the adjacent wetlands.

Federal Emergency Management Area (FEMA) Flood Zone

Two of the distribution poles to be replaced are located within a New York State Coastal Zone and portions are located within the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area AE X500 (1% annual chance of flood). The proposed poles will be built to current storm hardening construction standards. No impacts to the floodplains or to other upstream/downstream properties will result from the construction and operation of the Proposed Action, particularly in view of the resiliency of the design. Flood patterns will not be impacted by the pole installations and replacements.

For Further Information:

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