

A. INTRODUCTION

An assessment of potential for impacts due to construction of the Proposed Action was performed. The construction activity, the anticipated schedule and assessment of potential construction impacts are provided below.

B. CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITY

All vehicles required for Phase II construction will be staged at a location to be secured by the contractor prior to commencement of construction. Similar to Phase I, the work within the Substation Property for Phase II will not create traffic impacts because all work will take place within the substation property. As a result, construction impacts associated with Phase II substation activities will be minimal. It is anticipated that Phase II work for the Substation Property will be undertaken beginning in July 2019 and ending by June 2020, though the work may not be on a continual basis.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**TRAFFIC**

The Phase II aboveground work will occur along paved roads and will result in minimal traffic impacts. These impacts will be minimized through the use of flagging and traffic controls, in coordination with the Village of Hempstead Department of Public Works. Traffic disruptions will consist of minor lane diversions and possible short-term lane closings. Impacts on access to adjacent properties will be minimized using administrative controls, including publicly displayed notifications, and correspondence through PSEG Long Island External Affairs, and engineering/physical controls, such as flaggers, and road construction plates if needed to bridge roadway openings. In the immediate vicinity of construction activity, access to residences and businesses may be temporarily limited, but at no point completely blocked. Workers will be assigned to move protective barriers to allow access to properties as needed. At all times there will be a path for emergency services to access all residences and businesses. At completion of all work shifts, access will be returned to normal. Notifications will be sent in advance to local residences and businesses. Phase II transmission work and distribution is anticipated to be completed over a period of 6 months; however, work may not be on a continual basis throughout this time. This work will be completed between July 2019 and December 2019.

All work, including pole installations, will be completed during daytime hours, with the exception of select pole installations along Bedell Street, between North Franklin Street and the LIRR train tracks, which will be completed during nighttime hours in cooperation with the Village of Hempstead. The drilling activities for these pole installations will be completed during daytime hours. Night pole installations along Bedell Street will alleviate traffic impacts

in these areas that would occur if the poles were installed during the day. Nighttime construction in these areas will require temporary supplemental lighting and intermittent noise as a result of pole installation work. However, to ensure that these light impacts will not significantly impact nearby residences, administrative controls will be implemented, as necessary, including re-directing and shutting off light sources when not in use. In addition, engineering controls will be implemented, as necessary, including installation of sound proofing blankets, which will decrease the potential noise impacts to nearby properties.

With respect to excavation work, project personnel will determine the potential for contaminated soils through indicators such as presence of free product, stained soils, and oil or chemical odors. All contractors involved in Phase II construction activities will be required to submit an acceptable Health and Safety Plan (HASP) to PSEG LI prior to construction.

The contractor will be required to remove and dispose of any contaminated soils it identifies in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and such measures will avoid or eliminate pathways for human exposure. Therefore, Phase II construction would not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment due to hazardous materials.

AIR QUALITY

Construction equipment, construction vehicles, construction worker vehicles, as well as dust generated construction activities, may result in air certain pollutant emissions. Diesel-powered engines produce nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM). Fugitive dust generated by demolition and construction activities is also a source of PM. Finally, gasoline engines produce carbon monoxide (CO) and PM. Overall, the emissions generated during construction of the Proposed Action will not be significant and will not affect New York State Implementation Plans (SIP) for attaining and maintaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the pollutants discussed above. Furthermore, the localized increases in emissions will be temporary and will not significantly affect ambient pollutant levels at sensitive receptor locations (such as residences, schools, and publicly accessible open space or recreational areas). Sources of air pollutant emissions and measures that will be taken to the extent practicable to reduce those emissions by the Proposed Action are described below.

The construction equipment that will be utilized for the construction of the Proposed Action are not expected to operate on a continuous basis during any day, therefore, the air emissions generated by the operation of the construction equipment will not result in a significant air quality impact. Furthermore, construction activities will involve a relatively modest number of workers and deliveries and therefore the number of construction worker vehicle and truck trips will be small in comparison to existing traffic volumes.

Fugitive dust emissions occur as a result of soil or other fine material transport or transfer operations and traffic over unpaved areas. Actual quantities of emissions depend on the extent

and nature of operations, the type of equipment employed, the physical characteristics of the underlying soil, the speed at which construction vehicles are operated, and the type of fugitive dust control methods employed. Appropriate equipment and truck idling reduction, and fugitive dust control measures, such as dust covers and rinsing for trucks will be employed to minimize emissions. Therefore, it is anticipated that there will be no significant adverse impact from any fugitive dust generated by the Proposed Action.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

Increases in noise and vibration levels during construction of the Proposed Action may result from construction equipment operation, as well as from mobile sources, i.e., trucks and worker vehicles traveling to and from the work site. Noise levels at a given receptor are dependent on the type and number of pieces of construction equipment being operated, the receptor's distance from the work site, and any shielding effects (i.e., from structures such walls or barriers).

Noise from construction equipment is regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") noise emission standards. These federal requirements mandate that certain classifications of construction equipment and motor vehicles meet specified noise emission standards and construction material be handled and transported in such a manner as not to create unnecessary noise.

In general, noise from construction of the substation modifications will not result in increased noise levels for surrounding properties due to their distance from the substation, the shielding effects of the existing substation fencing, and the existing noise from the immediately adjacent active LIRR train station and track area. The drilling associated with pole installation will generate noise levels above existing ambient noise levels. Drilling work will be completed within less than 1 day at any given pole location. Due to the temporary nature of these construction activities, these activities will not result in significant noise impacts. The installation of poles into the boreholes will not cause any significant noise impacts.

In terms of vibration, for limited time periods, perceptible vibration levels may be experienced at locations immediately adjacent to the construction area. However, the operations that will result in these perceptible vibration levels will be expected to only occur for very short periods of time at any particular location. Therefore, vibration due to construction activities associated with the Proposed Action will not result in a significant adverse impact. Due to the limited amount of residential uses nearby and the nature of the construction, vibrations from construction of the Proposed Action will not result in a significant impact to nearby residential properties.

STORMWATER, SURFACE WATERS, GROUNDWATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Since the Proposed Action will disturb less than one (1) acre, a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (“SPDES”) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity is not required.

No areas of the Proposed Action area are located within the 100-year floodplain (the area with a 1 percent probability of flooding each year). Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in an adverse impact with regards to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of flood waters.

Similar to Phase I, ground disturbances for Phase II will be required within the Substation Property to install footings to support planned structures and for the installation of the underground distribution exit feeders and underground distribution bypass. In addition, ground disturbances will be required for the replacement or installation of transmission and distribution poles for Phase II. The substation property and the locations of the Phase II 69kV aboveground transmission circuit, transmission pole installations, underground distribution exit feeders, underground distribution bypass and distribution pole installations do not contain surface waters, wetlands, or federal or state listed threatened or endangered animals or plants. As such, Phase II poses no potential to adversely impact ecological resources.

Groundwater within the vicinity of the Proposed Action is anticipated to be located at depths of approximately 11 to 20 feet below ground surface. Excavation activities related to the Proposed Action construction will not disturb the groundwater level. Therefore, significant adverse impacts to groundwater will not occur.

There are no federal- or state-listed endangered, threatened, and special concern species, or significant habitats are considered to have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the Proposed Action. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impact to threatened, endangered, and special concern species and significant habitats or any other natural resources. Based on the above, the Proposed Action will not result in a significant adverse impact to natural resources.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) database was reviewed for archaeological sensitive areas and State and National historic buildings at or near the Proposed Action.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Proposed Action is not located within an archeological sensitive area. As such, an adverse construction impact to archaeological resources is unlikely. In the event that intact archeological resources are identified during construction, further testing, documentation, and evaluation may be necessary and will be undertaken in consultation with OPRHP.

HISTORICAL/ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

There are no buildings or structures listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Register of Historic Places located within the footprint, or within 500 feet of the Proposed Substation and overhead 69kV transmission line. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in a significant adverse impact to architectural resources.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Two spills were identified in association with the substation property; however, both spills have been closed by the NYSDEC. Proper health and safety protocols will be implemented during soil excavation activities, including monitoring soils for discoloration, staining and odors. If necessary, excavation activities will be halted if any suspected contamination is identified until proper testing and remediation is completed, as warranted. In addition, although several NYSDEC remediation sites were located within 2,000 feet of the Phase II Substation Property and transmission route; the contamination associated with these properties are not anticipated to impact human health during construction or operation of Phase II, as remediation has either been completed at these sites; groundwater below the Substation Property is not planned to be utilized as a source of potable water and the area is serviced by public water; and as the Substation Property will not be occupied on a part-time or full-time basis. In addition, soil excavation activities will be monitored and proper health and safety protocols will be implemented during construction. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in exposure to, or mobilization of, hazardous materials.