

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ATTACHMENT

Belmont 69kV Conversion & New 69kV Circuits from Lake Success and Whiteside (the “Proposed Action”)

Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action includes the conversion of the existing Belmont Substation, from 33 kilovolts (kV) to 69kV (*see* Figure 1), and the installation of two new underground (UG) transmission circuits to be located, respectively, between the Belmont Substation and the existing Lake Success Substation, and between the Belmont Substation and the existing Whiteside Substation, located within the hamlet of Elmont, Town of Hempstead, the hamlets of New Hyde Park and Floral Park, Town of North Hempstead, and the Village of New Hyde Park and Village of Floral Park, Nassau County, New York,

The Proposed Action is being installed to relieve contingency overload conditions on an existing transmission circuit currently serving the area (Circuit # 33-322). In addition, forecasted load for the circuits serving this area is expected to increase over the next ten years, which would increase the potential for overload conditions. Therefore, the Proposed Action will relieve these contingency overload conditions, while also supporting future load growth within the area.

The Proposed Action will include the following:

- i) the replacement of the two existing 33kV transformer banks with two 69kV transformer banks and the replacement of two 33kV potential transformers with two 69kV potential transformers within the Belmont Substation;
- ii) the installation of an approximately 3.3 mile new 69kV UG transmission cable for the transmission circuit from the Lake Success Substation to the Belmont Substation through a combination of horizontal directional drilling and open-trench methods. The new cable will connect to an existing 1.3-mile UG 69kV transmission cable that connects to the Belmont Substation;
- iii) the installation of one 69kV transformer circuit breaker on a new concrete pad at the Lake Success Substation;
- iv) the installation of an approximately 2.0-mile new 69kV UG transmission cable for the transmission circuit from the Whiteside Substation to the Belmont Substation through a combination of horizontal directional drilling and open-trench methods. The new cable will connect to an existing 1.3-mile UG 69kV transmission cable that connects to the Belmont Substation; and

- v) the installation of four new 69kV transmission circuit breakers and the replacement of three control power transformers with two control power transformers, one circuit switcher, and one automatic throw over switch at the Whiteside Substation.

More particularly, the new Lake Success to Belmont UG transmission circuit will exit the west side of the Lake Success Substation onto Lakeville Road; then continue south on Lakeville Road; then west on Lowell Avenue; then south on Emerson Avenue; then continue south on Plainfield Avenue; then west through Belmont Park, ultimately connecting into the Belmont Substation. A total of seven manholes will be installed along this circuit.

The new Whiteside to Belmont UG transmission circuit will exit the west side of the LIPA-owned Whiteside property onto Bedford Avenue; then proceed south on Grant Street; then west on Hempstead Turnpike (NY-24); then north on Plainview Avenue; then west through Belmont Park, ultimately connecting into the Belmont Substation. A total of five manholes will be installed along this circuit.

In total, the Proposed Action will disturb approximately 2.2 acres of land which is comprised of public right of ways (road and roadside) and existing LIPA substation properties.

SEQRA Findings

Based on a review of the Proposed Action's scope of work in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Short Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 ("SEAF") were prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action. 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.

- All new and replacement substation equipment will be of height and size similar to the existing substation equipment. The installation of the transmission circuits will be entirely UG and therefore will not result in any significant adverse visual impacts. The circuits will be installed UG in areas where existing utilities are located, and therefore the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to land use.
- The Proposed Action is located within and adjacent to an archaeological buffer area and within a surveyed archeology area (Phase IA Archeological Sensitivity Assessment for MTA's Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) Main Line Expansion Project). A consultation request was submitted to the New York State (NYS) Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) on October 17, 2023. OPRHP responded in a letter dated October 24, 2023, indicating that the Proposed Action would have no impact on historic properties, including archaeological and/or historic resources (*see Appendix A*).

Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to these resources.

- The bald eagle, a state-listed threatened species, was identified as being potentially located in the vicinity of the Proposed Action near the Lake Success Substation. Bald eagles prefer undisturbed areas near large lakes and reservoirs, marshes and swamps, or stretches along rivers where they can find open water and fish¹. The vast majority of the Proposed Action will be completed UG within paved public roadways. Additional activities will be contained to the limits of existing substations, which are fenced, covered in crushed dolomite stone, and do not contain suitable habitat for the aforementioned threatened species. The nearest suitable habitat for bald eagle are lands surrounding Lake Success, located approximately 0.65 miles north-northeast of the Lake Success Substation. Because no clearing/trimming of trees is proposed, no permanent loss of habitat for any rare, threatened or endangered wildlife species will occur, no rare, threatened, or endangered plants were identified within the areas to be disturbed for implementation of the Proposed Action, and vegetation removal will be minor in nature, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the identified species.
- No portions of the Proposed Action are located within or immediately adjacent to any state or federally regulated wetlands or wetland adjacent areas, floodplains, or critical environmental areas (CEAs). Therefore, the Proposed Action does not have the potential for significant adverse impacts to these resources.
- The Proposed Action adjoins five properties listed in the New York State Department of Environmental (NYSDEC) environmental remediation database as follows: i) two active sites: Unisys Corporation [Site Code: 130045]) and Floral Park G13 [Site Codes: 130229 and V00389]; ii) one closed site: Elmont – 546 Hempstead Turnpike-aka-Elmont Welding [Site Code: E130150]; and, iii) two no action sites: Elmont – 540 Hempstead Turnpike [Site Code: E130144] and Elmont – NE Corner of Hempstead Trnpg & Louise Ave [Site Code: E130151 (*see* Figures 3 through 5). The Unisys Corporation site includes an approximately 90-acre area within and around a chlorinated solvent groundwater plume that is associated with former defense-related manufacturing operations in the area. A draft Site Management Plan is currently in place for the property, which controls the handling of any excavated materials and groundwater. The Floral Park G13 site includes a LIRR rectifying station with mercury and lead contaminated soil. The property has been remediated to industrial use standards and is managed under a Site Management Plan. Proposed Action work activities closest to the active sites include trenching for UG cable installation, the installation of a transmission circuit breaker at the Lake Success Substation, the installation of new 69kV breakers within the Lake Success Substation, and

¹ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/74052.html>

trenching along Plainfield Avenue, all of which will involve relatively small excavation footprints. Based on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Long Island Depth to Water Viewer, the groundwater in these areas is approximately 84 feet below grade, and therefore will not be encountered during excavation activities. PSEG Long Island's contractor performing the Proposed Action construction 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. If necessary, excavation activities will be halted if any unanticipated contamination is identified until proper testing is completed, as warranted. As such, significant adverse impacts to human health are not anticipated during construction or operation of the Proposed Action, nor will there be significant adverse impacts to the remediation of these listed sites.

- Test reports were provided for both the existing and proposed transformer banks at the Belmont Substation (*see* Appendix B). The two existing transformer banks, which will be removed as part of the Proposed Action, operate with a maximum sound level of 61.6 and 65 decibels (dBA), respectively; the proposed replacement transformer banks will operate with a maximum sound level of 59 and 65 dBA. Based on the information provided in these test reports, the replacement transformers will operate at the same or lower sound levels, and thus will not create a significant adverse noise impact from the conversion of the Belmont Substation. All other additional substation equipment to be installed and replaced at the Belmont Substation, Whiteside Substation, and Lake Success Substation as part of the Proposed Action is non-noise generating. Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse noise impacts.