



AURORA MILLS STREETLIGHTS – STATUS UPDATE

To All Homeowners:

As many of you are likely aware, we have had chronic issues with our internal streetlights, beginning shortly after their installation in 2021. Our streetlights were installed by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) under contract with Marrano – a contract which has now transferred to us. Under that agreement, NYSEG has responsibility for maintaining these lights in working condition, including the replacement of burned-out bulbs.

Our streetlights were originally installed with sodium-vapor (SV) bulbs, which give off a subdued, yellowish light similar in color to our garage-front lighting. This was done by intentional design, as there was concern raised by nearby residents during the Town project review and approval process about the potential for “light-pollution” of the rural night sky from our development if brighter, more “white light” bulbs were used. Over the past couple of years several original SV bulbs have burned out (as could be expected), however NYSEG has advised they no longer install SV replacement bulbs: they have converted to more energy-efficient LED replacements throughout their systems – which makes sense. However, although SV-color LED bulbs are available for purchase in the marketplace, NYSEG has indicated they will not stock them. This is why you see a couple of ‘white’ streetlights in our development where a couple of replacements have occurred.

In addition to this situation, NYSEG has been unresponsive to all our various other requests, including the installation of a streetlight at the entry to our development on Mill Road. The application for installation of that streetlight was officially made to NYSEG by our HOA Board and the Town of Aurora in June of 2022. NYSEG’s consistent response to the status of that request is – and has been for over 18 months now – that it is in “engineering review”.

In summary, the Board has been in discussions with NYSEG for over two years on all of these issues, and we have made no meaningful headway. It is for these reasons that the Board has elected to retain a private electrical contractor to replace all internal streetlight bulbs with the appropriate LED “yellow, SV equivalent” bulbs. While there is an up-front expense to replacing all of the bulbs at one time (an expense we would also have to pay to NYSEG for a one-time conversion - with no assurance if or when it would actually occur), this will result in lower electricity usage and billing, while providing reliable and responsive service to future outage replacement from our own contractor. We hope to have all streetlights up and working properly by early spring by going this route.

Unfortunately, we will remain at NYSEG’s mercy (and momentum) for installation of the entry light on Mill, as that is in the Mill Road public right-of-way and falls under contract between NYSEG and the Town. We are currently in the process of contacting state and local public officials seeking assistance in getting the Mill Road entry light installed. We will continue that lean, as the lack of entry lighting is a safety hazard.