

# Attachment D. Visual Simulations

## Viewpoint Information

**Viewpoint ID:** 63S  
**County:** Chautauqua  
**Town:** Ripley  
**Location:** County Route 6  
**Latitude, Longitude:**  
42.19914°N, 79.75998°W  
**Direction of View:** South  
**Viewing Distance:** 225 feet  
**Distance Zone:** Near-foreground

## Visual Resources

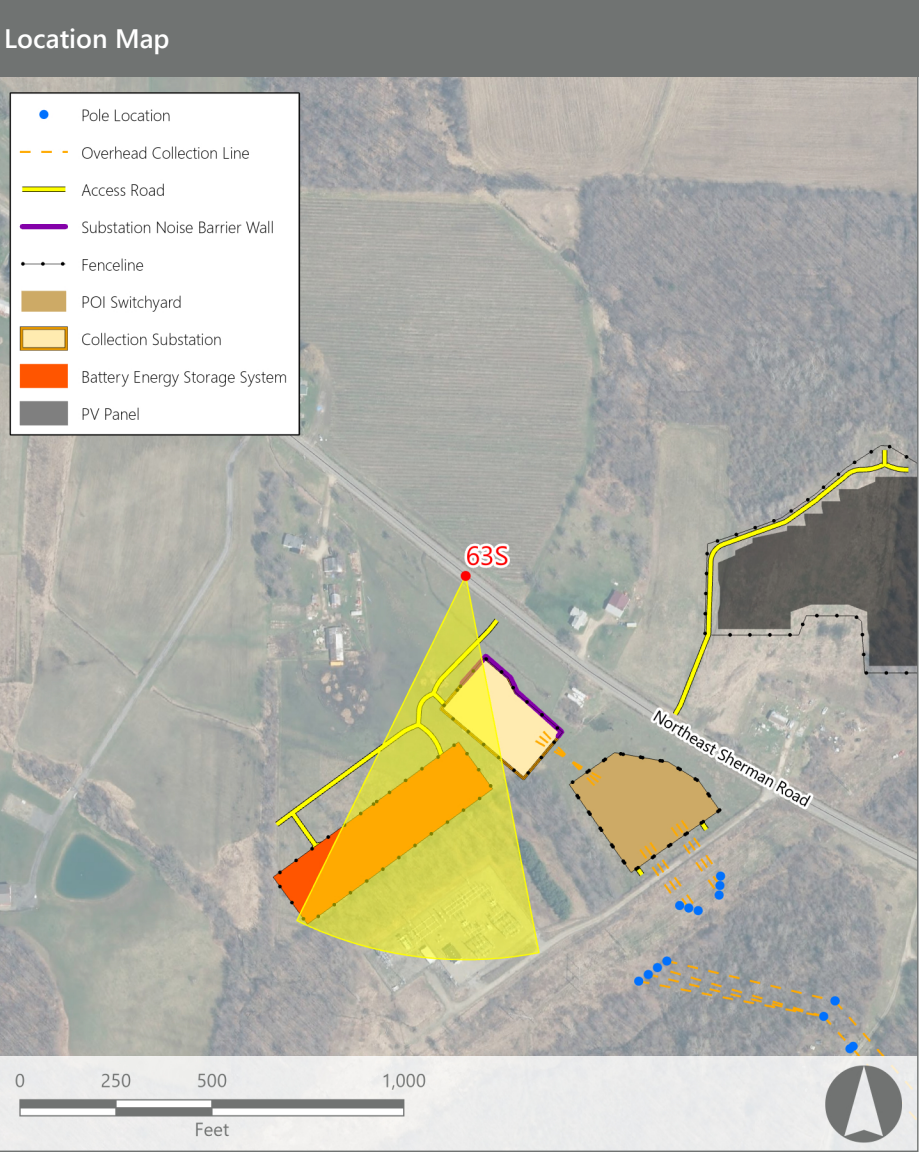
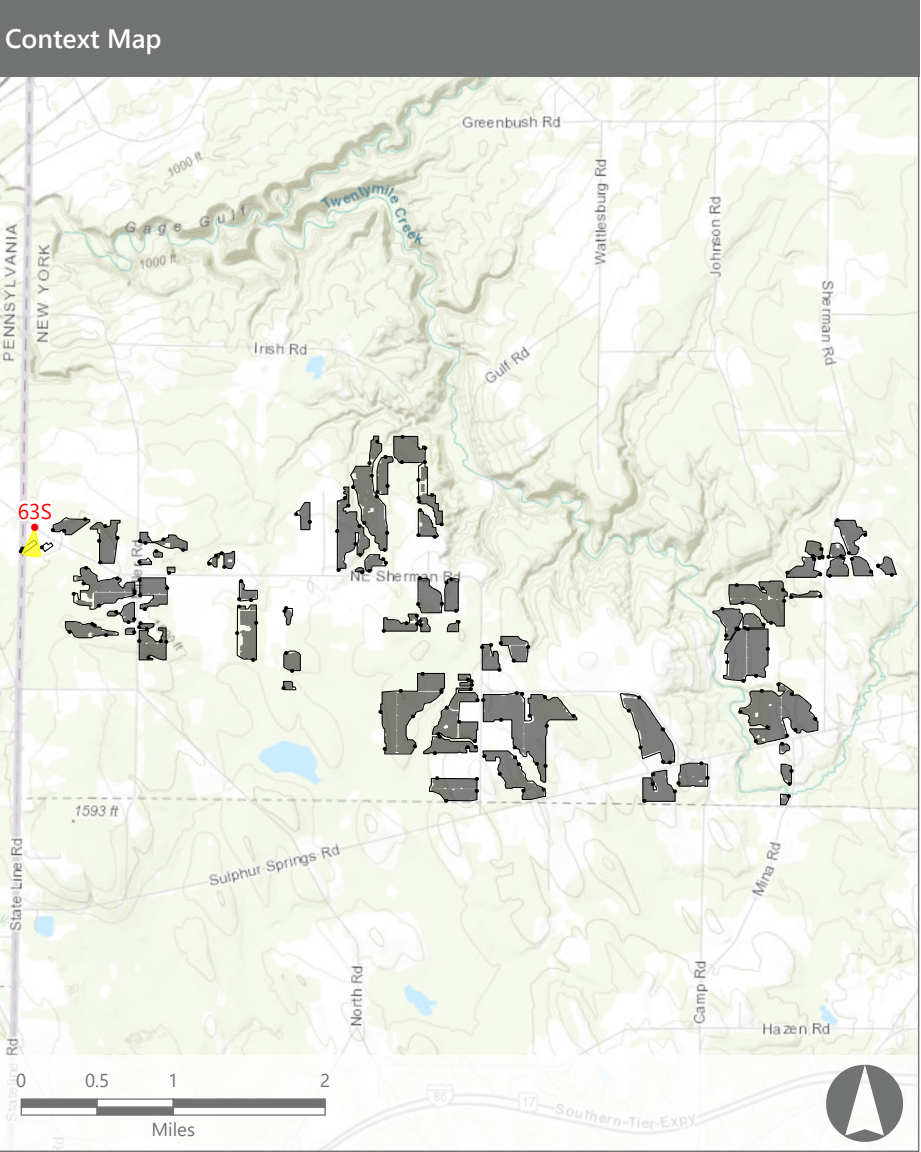
**Landscape Type:** Rural Residential/  
Agricultural  
**User Group:** Local Residents, Through-  
Travelers  
**VSR:** Concord Grape Belt State Heritage  
Area

## Photograph Information

**Date Taken:** March 12, 2021  
**Time:** 5:19 PM  
**Camera:** Nikon D7100  
**Resolution:** 24.1 Megapixels  
**Lens Focal Length:** 35 mm  
**Camera Elevation:** 1,471 feet  
**Field of View:** 37°

## Project Information

**Racking Type:** Fixed Tilt PV Array  
**Max Panel Height:** 13 feet AGL  
**Project Area:** 3,382 acres



Context Photo: View to the Southeast



Context Photo: View to the South-southeast



Simulation Photo: View to the South



Context Photo: View to the South-southwest

## South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

**Section 94-c Application. Matter No. 21-00750**



Existing View



Proposed View



View with Mitigation



Existing Condition

Viewpoint 63S is just up the road (to the northwest) from Viewpoint 59 on County Route 6. This viewpoint is approximately 225 feet from the nearest visible component of the Facility’s proposed collection substation and 433 feet from the nearest visible battery energy storage system. The existing view to the south from this location features a fenced pasture with patchy vegetation and uneven topography in the foreground, backed by a line of mature trees in the middle ground. Viewer attention is drawn to the back of the field where it meets the tree line. Portions of the existing Ripley Substation can be seen through the trees due to their leaf-off condition. Additional forest vegetation can be seen extending beyond the substation, but the middle ground trees essentially block views of more distant landscape features. This screening of the background will be complete during the growing season when the trees are in foliage. The view has relatively low scenic quality due to its enclosed character, lack of interesting focal points, the presence of existing utility infrastructure, and the rather ragged appearance of the foreground pasture.

Proposed View

With the proposed Facility in place, the sound barrier wall associated with the collection substation appears as a tall, rectangular box on the left side of the view in the foreground. The solid massing presented by the wall screens views of the forest and vegetation behind it. Due to its proximity to the viewer and its size, the wall becomes the dominant feature of the landscape and a focal element in this view, and presents significant contrast with existing features of the landscape in line, color, texture, and form. The energy storage structures appear as a series of low, light-colored rectangular boxes on the far side of the field. Due to their modest height, these structures do not significantly change the overall composition of the view. They present limited contrast with the existing vegetation, topography, and land use, are well below the skyline, and do not substantially screen the trees or substation in the background. However, the structures do present color and texture contrast with existing features of the landscape and become the new focus of this view. Although the new battery energy storage container structure add to the industrial/utility character of the view, their low profile, set back from the road, and clean line, form, and texture reduce their dominance and visual clutter.

Landscape Mitigation

With proposed mitigation plantings in place, and following five to seven years of growth, the visual mass of the energy storage facility is substantially reduced. The plantings provide some screening of the collection substation and battery energy storage facility, and the visual mass/prominence of the sound barrier wall is reduced. However, the upper portion of the wall remains unscreened. The linear edge created by the top of the wall and the background forested vegetation draws the viewers’ attention, and the wall remains a dominant feature that draws the viewer attention. However, with additional growth, taller trees will begin to obscure the upper portions of the wall and blend with the background forest vegetation. Although the presence of conifers in the plantings is not consistent with the existing forest vegetation, it enhances screening during the dormant season and will be less noticeable during the growing season.

Viewpoint Sensitivity<sup>1</sup>:

Scenic Quality:

☒ Low

☐ Moderate

☐ High

Viewer Exposure:

☒ Continuous

☒ Repeated/Regular

☒ Occasional/Brief

☐ Rare

<sup>1</sup> Viewpoint Sensitivity information is gathered from rating panel results. Scenic Quality is an average based on Low = 1, Moderate = 2, High = 3. Viewer Exposure reflects all those selected be the review panel.

Contrast Rating Scores<sup>2</sup>:

Component	Score		Contrast Rating 5-7 Years
	Install	5-7 Years	
Landform	2.0	1.6	Minimal/Moderate
Vegetation	2.8	2.3	Moderate/Appreciable
Land Use	2.5	1.9	Moderate
Water	NA	NA	NA
Sky	2.3	1.6	Minimal/Moderate
Viewer Activity	2.6	2.1	Moderate
AVERAGE	2.4	1.9	Moderate

<sup>2</sup> Contrast Rating Scale: 0.0 - 0.2 (Insignificant), 0.3 – 0.7 (Insignificant/Minimal), 0.8 – 1.2 (Minimal), 1.3 – 1.7 (Minimal/Moderate), 1.8 - 2.2 (Moderate), 2.3 – 2.7 (Moderate/Appreciable), 2.8 – 3.2 (Appreciable) 3.3 – 3.7 Appreciable/Strong), 3.8 – 4.0 (Strong).

Contrast Rating - Lowest and Highest Scores:

Install			Mitigation		
Component	Score		Component	Score	
	Low	High		Low	High
Landform	1	3	Landform	1	2.5
Vegetation	2	3.5	Vegetation	2	2.5
Land Use	1	3.5	Land Use	0.5	3
Water	NA	NA	Water	NA	NA
Sky	1	3	Sky	1	2
Viewer Activity	1.5	3	Viewer Activity	1.5	2.5

Existing Conditions



Simulation



Simulation with Mitigation 5-7 Year Post Install



Simulation with Mitigation 5-7 Year Post Install (Leaf-off)



Attachment D. Visual Simulations

Viewpoint Information

**Viewpoint ID:** 63SE  
**County:** Chautauqua  
**Town:** Ripley  
**Location:** County Route 6  
**Latitude, Longitude:**  
42.19913°N, 79.75995°W  
**Direction of View:** Southeast  
**Viewing Distance:** 240 feet  
**Distance Zone:** Near-foreground

Visual Resources

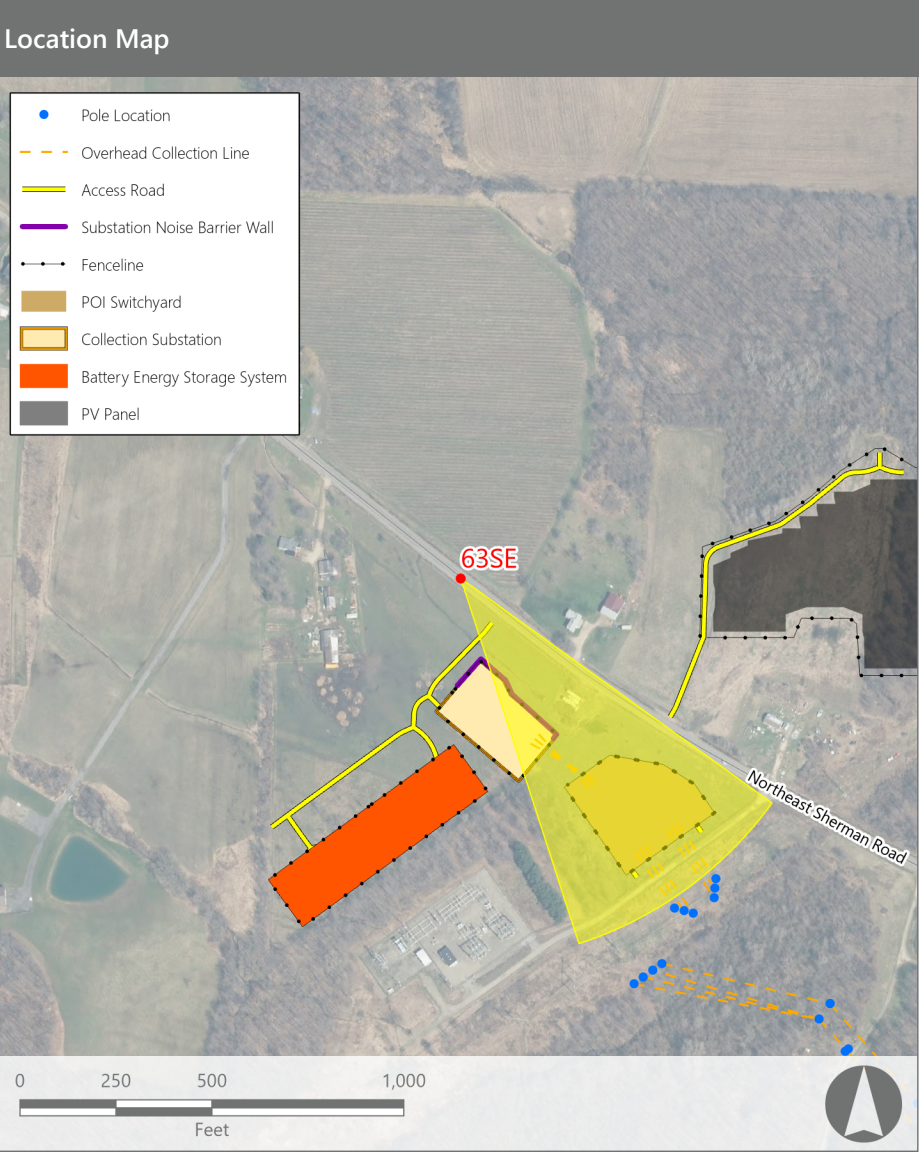
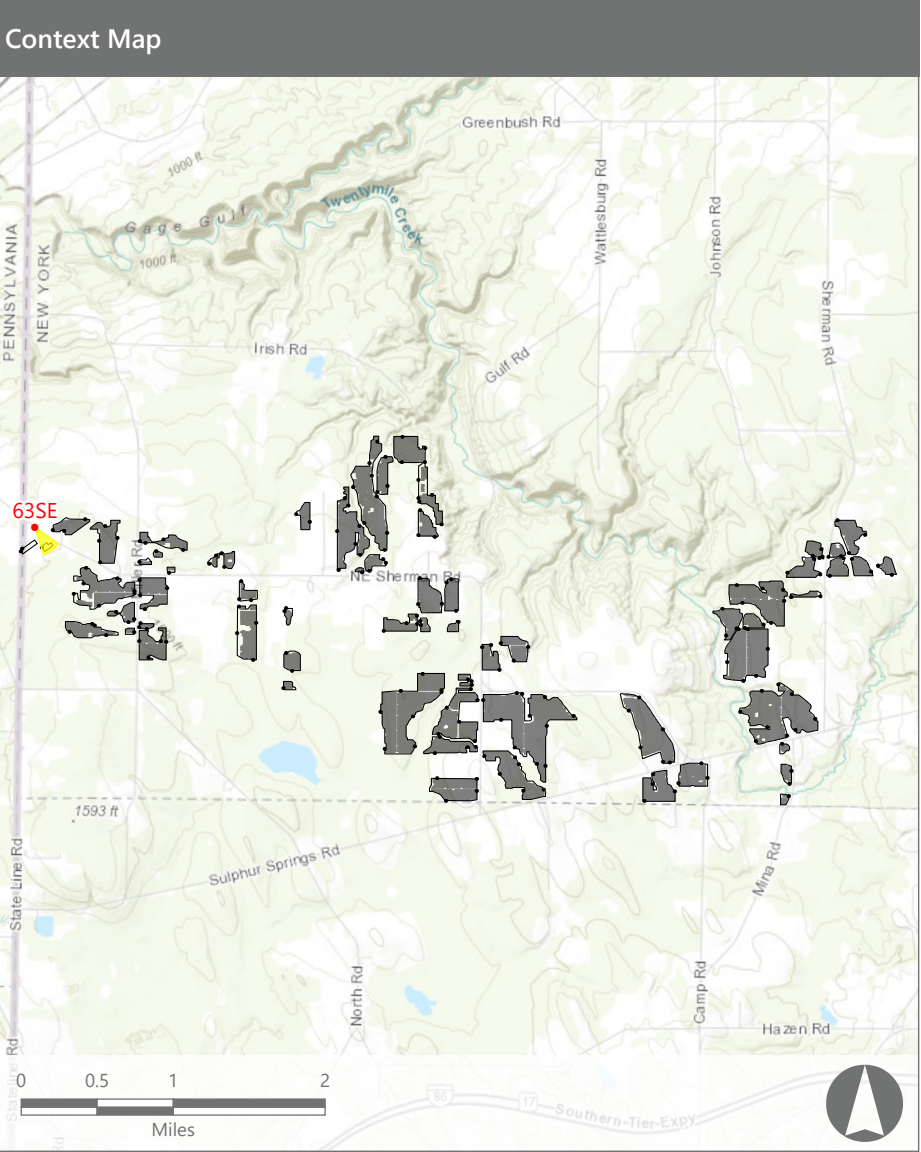
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**Lens Focal Length:** 35 mm  
**Camera Elevation:** 1,472 feet  
**Field of View:** 36°

Project Information

**Racking Type:** Fixed Tilt PV Array  
**Max Panel Height:** 13 feet AGL  
**Project Area:** 3,382 acres



Context Photo: View to the East-southeast



Simulation Photo: View to the Southeast



Context Photo: View to the South-southeast



Context Photo: View to the South

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Section 94-c Application. Matter No. 21-00750

