



Historic Resources Survey Report

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Prepared for:

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

SHPO Project Review Number:	20PR03687
Involved State/Federal Agencies:	New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (Section 14.09); New York State Office of Renewable Energy Services (ORES), Section 94-c Application
Phase of Survey:	Historic Resources Survey
Location Information:	Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York
Survey Area:	
Facility Description:	A proposed 270-megawatt (MW) utility-scale solar facility consisting of ground-mounted photovoltaic arrays and associated infrastructure.
Facility Area:	An approximately 4,511-acre general area of land under consideration to potentially host the South Ripley Solar Project.
Facility Site:	The portions of the parcels within the Facility Area that will ultimately host the Facility components and associated facilities.
2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area:	The area within two miles of the Facility Area boundary, which has been defined by SHPO as the appropriate study area for indirect effects on newly identified above-ground historic resources.
5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area:	The area within five miles of the Facility Area boundary, which has been defined by SHPO as the appropriate study area for indirect effects on above-ground historic resources.
Area of Potential Effect (APE) for Indirect Effects:	The area where the Facility may result in indirect effects on historic resources, such as visual or auditory impacts. The APE for Indirect Effects includes those areas within five miles around the Facility Area where Facility components are anticipated to be visible.
USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangles:	<i>Clymer, North Clymer, Ripley, Sherman, South Ripley, and Westfield, NY; North East and Wattsburg, PA</i>
Historic Resources Survey Overview:	<p>A total of 11 historic resources were evaluated in the survey. There are two resources listed in the State and/or National Register of Historic Places (S/NRHP) within the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and Area of Potential Effect (APE) for Indirect Effects; both are located in Pennsylvania. There are no resources previously determined to be S/NRHP-eligible within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects. One resource for which S/NRHP eligibility has not been formally determined is located within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects; EDR recommends that this resource meets S/NRHP eligibility criteria. EDR identified one new resource within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects which appears to meet S/NRHP eligibility criteria.</p> <p>In addition, consultation with local stakeholders identified seven resources within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area, six of which are within the APE for</p>

Indirect Effects. One resource was not visible from the public right-of-way and one resource could not be located during the field survey. EDR recommends that the remaining five resources do not meet S/NRHP eligibility criteria.

Report Authors: Kristen Olson, Grant Johnson

Date of Report: February 2021

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Investigation

On behalf of ConnectGen Chautauqua County LLC (ConnectGen, or the Applicant), a direct subsidiary of ConnectGen LLC, Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) prepared this historic resources survey report for the proposed South Ripley Solar Project (or the Facility), located in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York (see Figure 1). The historic resources survey was prepared as part of review of the Facility under Section 94-c of the New York State Executive Law.¹

As described in 19 NYCRR § 900-2.10 (Exhibit 9: Cultural Resources), a Section 94-c Application must include:

(b) A study of the impacts on historic resources within the PIA², including the results of field inspections, a review of the statewide inventory of historic property, and consultation with local historic preservation groups and federal/state-recognized Indian nations to identify sites or structures listed or eligible for listing in the State or National Register of Historic Places within the PIA, including an analysis of potential impact on any standing structures which appear to be at least fifty (50) years old and potentially eligible for listing in the State or National Register of Historic Places, based on an assessment by a qualified individual.

The information and recommendations included in this report are intended to assist the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO) in their review of the proposed Facility in accordance with Section 94-c of the New York State Executive Law, Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Law, and/or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as applicable. Please note that this report addresses only aboveground historic properties; information concerning the Facility's potential effect on archaeological resources is being provided to SHPO under separate cover.

The purpose of the historic resources survey is to identify and document those buildings within the Facility's Area of Potential Effect (APE) for Indirect Effects (see Section 1.3) that appear to satisfy State and National Register of Historic Places (S/NRHP) eligibility criteria (further defined in Section 3.1).

All cultural resources studies undertaken by EDR in association with the Facility have been conducted by professionals who satisfy the qualifications criteria per the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation (36 CFR 61).

¹ The Applicant initiated state permitting with the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Siting Board) as set forth under Article 10 of the Public Service Law (Article 10), but has elected to become subject to Section 94-c of the Executive Law, with the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) as the lead agency.

² Defined in 19 NYCRR § 900-2.10 as the Project Impact Area.

1.2 Facility Location and Description

The proposed Facility is a 270-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic solar energy project located entirely within the Town of Ripley in Chautauqua County, New York. The regional Facility location is depicted on Figure 1. The Facility will include photovoltaic (PV) panels mounted on fixed-tilt or single-axis tracking structures, together with the associated support infrastructure. The Facility will ultimately be sited on approximately 2,000 acres of leased or purchased private land consisting primarily of open agricultural fields, fallow fields, and large forest stands. The lands that are being evaluated for potential solar development are generally bounded within an approximately 4,510-acre area identified on Figure 2 as the Facility Area. It is important to note that not all the land identified as the Facility Area will be included in the Facility. Rather, the Facility Area represents the broader area within which selected parcels will be developed with solar facilities. This provides flexibility during the project development phase to minimize and avoid impacts to wetlands, cultural resources, visual resources, wildlife habitat, and other sensitive resources.

The Facility will consist of the following components:

- Uniform rows of PV solar panels producing direct current (DC) electricity. The PV panels will be mounted on either fixed-tilt or single-axis tracking structures that follow the sun throughout the day, with a maximum height of approximately 15 feet;
- Internal infrastructure including access roads and fencing;
- Co-located inverters placed throughout the Facility (internal to the panel arrays) to convert DC electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity;
- Medium voltage transformers co-located with the inverters that will increase the voltage of the electricity to 34.5 kV for the collection system;
- A medium voltage collection system that will aggregate the 34.5 kV AC output from the co-located inverters and transformers and deliver electricity to the Facility substation;
- A collection substation where the Facility's electrical output voltage will be combined, and its voltage increased to the transmission line voltage of 230 kV via step-up transformers;
- A new point of interconnection (POI) with associated transmission equipment connecting directly to the existing substation or a new switchyard and three-breaker ring bus adjacent to the existing National Grid substation;
- A potential Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building to be located within the Facility Area;
- Temporary laydown areas for equipment staging during construction; and
- A potential 20 MW battery energy storage system with up to 80 megawatt-hours (MWh) of energy storage capacity.

The following terms are used throughout this document to describe the proposed project:

<u>Facility:</u>	Collectively refers to all components of the proposed project, including PV panels, access driveways, buried and above ground collection lines, collection substation, point of interconnection (POI) switchyard, battery energy storage system, and staging areas.
<u>Facility Area:</u>	An approximately 4,511-acre general area of land under consideration to potentially host the South Ripley Solar Project, including generating facility components, interconnections, and related facilities. The Facility Area may be refined based on landowner coordination, environmental sensitivities, and engineering/design considerations.
<u>Facility Site:</u>	The parcels proposed to host the Facility components. This includes parcels currently under, or being pursued, for lease, purchase, or easement (or other real property interests) by the Applicant for the location of all Facility components. The Facility will ultimately be sited on approximately 2,000 acres of leased or purchased private land. It is anticipated that the Facility Site will change as the Facility's design advances and becomes more refined.
<u>2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area:</u>	The area within two miles of the Facility Area boundary, which has been defined by SHPO (see Section 1.4) as the appropriate study area for indirect effects on above-ground historic resources not previously listed or determined eligible for listing on the S/NRHP nor designated a National Historic Landmark. The 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area for the Facility is located within Chautauqua County, New York including portions of the Towns of Ripley, Westfield, Sherman and Mina; and within Erie County, Pennsylvania including a portion of North East Township.
<u>5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area:</u>	The area within five miles of the Facility Area boundary, which has been defined by SHPO (see Section 1.4) as the appropriate study area for indirect effects on above-ground historic resources listed on or determined eligible for listing on the S/NRHP or designated a National Historic Landmark. The 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area for the Facility is located within Chautauqua County, New York including portions of the Towns of Ripley, Westfield, Chautauqua, Sherman and Mina, and the Village of Sherman; and within Erie County, Pennsylvania including portions of North East and Greenfield Townships.
<u>APE for Direct Effects:</u>	The APE for Direct Effects for the Facility is the area containing all proposed soil disturbance associated with the Facility. As presently envisioned, the APE for Direct Effects for the current Facility layout would be defined as all areas of soil disturbance within the leased or purchased privately-owned parcels that would ultimately be developed for the Facility, although the proposed locations of specific components have not been defined yet. It is anticipated that the APE for Direct Effects will change as the Facility's design advances and becomes more refined.
<u>APE for Indirect Effects:</u>	The APE for Indirect Effects on historic resources includes those areas where the Facility may result in indirect effects on cultural resources, such as visual or auditory impacts. As presently envisioned, the APE for Indirect Effects for the Facility is the area within the 2-Mile and 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Areas, as defined in this section, which is within the potential viewshed (based on topography and a maximum PV

panel height of 15 feet) of the Facility. The current Facility layout has an APE for Indirect Effects of approximately 64 square miles of the Historic Resources Study Area (see Figure 3).

1.3 Agency Consultation

The SHPO *Guidelines for Solar Facility Development Cultural Resources Survey Work* request that cultural resources surveys for solar energy projects include consultation with SHPO to determine the scope and methodology to identify and evaluate historic resources (SHPO, 2020a). 19 NYCRR § 900-2.10 indicates that the scope of cultural resources studies for a major electrical generating facility should be determined in consultation with SHPO. Applicable agency consultation that has been conducted to date is summarized below.

The Public Involvement Program Plan (PIP) prepared as part of the Article 10 process was released October 30, 2019 (EDR, 2019).³ The PIP is designed to initiate the Article 10 process, and includes consultation with the affected agencies and other stakeholders; pre-application activities to encourage stakeholders to participate at the earliest opportunity; activities designed to educate the public as to the specific proposal and the Article 10 review process, including the availability of funding for municipal and local parties; the establishment of a website to disseminate information to the public and updates regarding the Facility and the Article 10 process; notifications to affected agencies and other stakeholders; and activities designed to encourage participation by stakeholders in the certification and compliance process.

A Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS) was released May 22, 2020 (EDR, 2020a).⁴ The PSS and related “scoping” process are designed to gather stakeholder input at a relatively early stage, before an applicant has a fully developed proposal, so that issues and environmental and social resources of particular concern to the community can be identified and addressed in the final project design. Consistent with this goal, the PSS provided the scope and methodology of the comprehensive environmental studies required for the proposed Facility, as well as the information required to satisfy the Article 10 regulations.

An initial request for consultation was made to SHPO via the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) website on June 18, 2020 (EDR, 2020b). This submittal included a description of the proposed Facility and a map of the Facility Area and proposed a historic resources survey be conducted in accordance with SHPO’s *Guidelines for Solar Facility Development Cultural Resources Survey Work* (SHPO, 2020a) in order to meet the Article 10 requirements. On June

³ The Public Involvement Program Plan (PIP) for the Facility is available on DPS’ website here: <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=19-F-0560&submit=Search>

⁴ The Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS) for the Facility is available on DPS’ website here: <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=19-F-0560&submit=Search>

22, 2020, SHPO provided a response letter concurring with EDR's general approach to the historic resources survey and requested that they be provided with the methodology and scope of work for historic resources surveys for the Facility.

The initial consultation submission to SHPO included a memorandum that was provided to the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS), and other relevant state and local agencies and entities to assist in the identification of visually sensitive resources (VSRs), in accordance with Article 10 regulations (EDR, 2020c). The memorandum described a 5-mile visual study area to be used for the visual impact assessment to be prepared for the Facility, and included a table and maps depicting VSRs identified within the visual study area.

On July 6, 2020, DPS provided a response to the memorandum indicating the following regarding historic resources within the 5-mile visual study area:

DPS staff advises that the five-mile study area should continue into Pennsylvania to ensure that visually sensitive resources are properly addressed. The following are resources to be considered in Pennsylvania:

Properties of Historic Significance

1. (NRHP) Short's Hotel – 90 S Pearl St, North East, PA 16428
 2. (NRHP) North East Historic District – 21-1 N Pearl St, North East, PA 16428
- (DPS, 2020)

A *Phase IA Historic Resources Survey* was submitted to SHPO via the CRIS website on August 18, 2020 (EDR, 2020d). The *Phase IA Historic Resources Survey* identified resources within the Facility's APE for Indirect Effects that appear to satisfy S/NRHP eligibility criteria and proposed a scope of work and methodology for additional survey of a five-mile study area surrounding the Facility per SHPO guidelines. On August 19, 2020 SHPO provided a response which concurred with the work plan outlined in the Phase IA survey (SHPO, 2020b).

A copy of all referenced agency correspondence is included as Appendix A.

1.4 Facility's Area of Potential Effect (APE) and Historic Resources Study Area

Per the requirements set forth in 19 NYCRR § 900(bv), the study area to be used for analysis of major electric generating facilities is defined as:

(bv) *Study area* means the area generally related to the nature of the technology and the setting of the proposed site. Unless otherwise provided in this Part, in highly urbanized areas, the study area is a minimum one (1)-

mile radius from the property boundaries of the facility site, interconnections, and facilities with components spread across a rural landscape, the study area shall at a minimum include the area within a radius of at least five (5) miles from all generating facility components, interconnections and related facilities (NYCRR, 2020).

Unlike a wind power project that contains wind turbines that may be 500 feet or more in height and visible from a relatively large surrounding area (e.g., five miles or more), a solar generating facility does not have prominently visible components. Although the PV panels would be the most widespread Facility component (and are not expected to be more than 15 feet above grade, less than a single-story residence), the tallest structures associated with the Facility would be substation equipment such as the overhead gantry (which allows the powerlines to connect to the existing transmission line), lightning protection masts, and possible telecommunication structures that each could have a height of 70 feet or more. Above-ground collector lines, if these are determined to be necessary, may also have heights of more than 18.5 feet.

To ensure that potential visual effects on regional visually sensitive historic resources are adequately considered in the Article 10 or Section 94-c Application, and consistent with the SHPO *Guidelines for Solar Facility Development Cultural Resources Survey Work*, both two-mile-radius and five-mile-radius Historic Resources Study Areas were used for the purpose of identifying historic properties which appeared to meet S/NRHP eligibility criteria (see Figure 3). The 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area, defined by SHPO as the appropriate study area for indirect effects on above-ground historic resources listed on the S/NRHP or designated a National Historic Landmark, includes portions of the Towns of Ripley, Westfield, Chautauqua, Sherman, and Mina, the Village of Sherman, and the unincorporated hamlets of Ripley, and Findley Lake in Chautauqua County, New York; and portions of Northeast Township and Greenfield Township, including the Borough of North East, in Erie County, Pennsylvania. The 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area, defined by SHPO as the appropriate study area for indirect effects on above-ground historic resources 50 years of age or older, includes portions of the Towns of Ripley, Westfield, Sherman, and Mina in Chautauqua County, New York as well as a portion of North East Township in Erie County, Pennsylvania (see Figure 3).

Direct Effects

The APE for Direct Effects for the Facility is defined as all areas where potential soil disturbance (or other direct, physical impacts) is anticipated during construction of the Facility. The actual extent of soil disturbance associated with the Facility Site is anticipated to be significantly less than 2,000 acres. As described above, the proposed PV panels, the most widespread Facility component, are mounted on racks affixed to ground foundations, typically consisting of small I-beam posts, helical piles, or ground screw piles driven or screwed into the ground. Ground disturbance is typically limited to the footprint of the foundation, with the exception that some grading or grubbing may be required to facilitate foundation installation. Within the Facility Site, open space will remain between rows of PV

panels and in buffer areas around the perimeter. The remaining lands within the Facility Site will be undisturbed due to a combination of ecological resource avoidance, setbacks, and engineering constraints. As the Facility is planned to be constructed almost entirely on open lands, no direct physical impacts to historic properties are anticipated to occur as a result of the Facility.

Indirect Effects

The APE for Indirect Effects on historic resources includes those areas where the Facility may result in indirect effects on cultural resources, such as visual or auditory impacts. The Facility's potential indirect effect on historic resources would be a change (resulting from the introduction of PV panels or other Facility components) in the property's setting. This could theoretically consist of auditory and/or visual impacts; however, industrial-scale solar facilities produce minimal noise, so auditory impacts resulting from the proposed Facility are not anticipated to be a significant type of impact to the setting of historic resources. Therefore, potential visual impacts associated with the proposed Facility are the most relevant consideration for defining an APE for Indirect Effects.

In order to accurately determine an APE for Indirect Effects for the Facility, a viewshed analysis for the proposed PV panel arrays was prepared using 10-meter resolution USGS digital elevation model (DEM) data (7.5-minute series) for the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area, the location and height of all proposed PV panels, an assumed viewer height of 1.8 meters (or approximately 6 feet), and ESRI ArcGIS® software with the Spatial Analyst extension. Since the specific layout of solar panels is yet to be determined, sample points representing solar panels were placed 300 feet apart with an assigned height of 15 feet above grade in a grid pattern throughout all developable areas within those parcels that are currently being considered for development by the Applicant.

The DEM viewshed analysis considering only topography, which provides the basis for the APE for Indirect Effects, is presented in Figure 3.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND SITE HISTORY

2.1 Historic Research

A historic context for the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area, including a historic map analysis, is included in Section 2.2 of the *Phase IA Historic Resources Survey* (EDR, 2020d). Archives and repositories consulted during EDR's research for the Facility included the online digital collections of the Library of Congress, New York State Library, David Rumsey Map Collection, and USGS. Sources reviewed for the Facility included:

- *The Gazetteer of the State of New York: Embracing A Comprehensive View of the Geography, Geology, and General History of the State, and A Complete History and Description of Every County, City, Town, Village, and Locality* (French, 1860);
- *The History of Chautauqua County New York, From Its First Settlement to the Present Time; With Numerous Biographical and Family Sketches* (Young, 1875);
- *The History of Chautauqua County, New York* (Edson, 1894); and
- *The History of Chautauqua County New York and Its People* (Downs and Hedley, 1921).

Historic maps reproduced in the report include:

- Keeney's 1854 *Map of Chautauque County, NY* (Keeney, 1854);
- The 1899 *Westfield, NY*, 1905 *Clymer, NY*, and 1913 *North East, PA* 15-Minute USGS Topographic Quadrangles; and
- The 1954 *Ripley, NY*, 1954 *South Ripley, NY*, 1954 *Sherman, NY*, 1954 *Clymer, NY*, 1954 *North Clymer, NY*, 1954 *Westfield, NY*, 1960 *Wattsburg, PA*, and 1960 *North East, PA* 7.5-Minute USGS Topographic Quadrangles (USGS, 1899, 1905, 1913, 1954a, 1954b, 1954c, 1954d, 1954e, 1954f, 1960a, 1960b).

2.2 Previous Historic Resources Surveys within the Study Area

A review of CRIS indicated that one previous historic resources survey has been conducted within the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area:

- The *Village of Sherman Reconnaissance Level Cultural Resources Survey* was completed in 2010 to determine the S/NRHP eligibility of all properties located within the village boundaries, or approximately 290 in total. The survey boundary is located partially within the APE for Indirect Effects. The report recommended the nomination of a small commercial historic district along Main Street comprised of 11 contributing and five noncontributing resources; the report recommended 52 resources as individually S/NRHP-eligible (Walkowski, 2010). None of the S/NRHP-eligible resources are located within the APE for Indirect Effects.

The survey was reviewed for information regarding the overall types of cultural resources found within the 2-Mile and 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Areas.

2.3 Previously Identified Historic Resources

EDR reviewed the CRIS website maintained by SHPO to identify significant historic buildings and/or districts, as well as other previously identified historic properties (i.e. cemeteries, bridges, monuments) located within the Historic Resources Study Area. The viewshed analysis (described in Section 1.4 and depicted in Figures 3-5) was then used to identify above-ground historic resources located within the APE for Indirect Effects. This analysis was conducted using the spatial join extension in the ESRI ArcGIS® software to determine which resources within the historic resources study area were found to fall within the viewshed.

Based on a review of CRIS, there is one previously identified resource, South Ripley Cemetery, within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects. The S/NRHP eligibility of the cemetery has not been formally determined. There are no S/NRHP-listed resources or resources determined eligible for listing in the S/NRHP located within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects. Two NRHP-listed resources are located within the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects in Pennsylvania:

- The North East Historic District (NR 90000414) is comprised of 114 contributing resources in the Borough of North East, Pennsylvania (Sands, 1990). Contributing resources include mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth century commercial, residential, religious, and institutional buildings. The district is partially located within the APE for Indirect Effects.
- Short's Hotel (NR 83002243) is a three-story brick commercial building constructed in 1877 in the Italianate style. It was commissioned by Samson Short, a lumber and industrial entrepreneur, to take advantage of its location along the Lakeshore and Michigan Southern Railroad (Claridge, 1983).

The locations of previously identified historic resources within the APE for Indirect Effects are depicted on Figure 4.

2.4 Stakeholder Consultation

As a part of the historic resources survey, EDR also contacted local historians and historical societies seeking input regarding the identification of historic resources with historic or architectural significance located within the APE for Indirect Effects and 2-Mile and 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Areas. Outreach included phone and email conversations on October 2, October 6, and October 15, 2020. Below is a summary of contact and outcomes:

- On October 2, 2020 EDR staff contacted Ms. Michelle Henry, Chautauqua County Historian, via telephone. Ms. Henry replied via email and identified the following resources: South Ripley United Methodist Church, Holdridge Corners Cemetery located on Sulphur Springs Road near the intersection of Sinden Road, and several former one-room schoolhouses which are now residences. Ms. Henry noted that the former schoolhouses have generally been altered with modern siding materials and additions.
- On October 2, 2020 EDR staff contacted Dr. John Hamels, Town of Ripley Historian, via telephone. Dr. Hamels identified the following resources: South Ripley United Methodist Church; former schoolhouses on Irish Road, Colton Road, and Gage's Gulf Road (NE Sherman Road); and the Ripley Rod and Gun Club.
- On October 2, 2020 EDR staff contacted Mr. Devon Taylor, Town of Chautauqua Historian, via telephone. Mr. Taylor stated that he was not aware of any historic resources in the portion of the town within the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area.
- On October 2, 2020 EDR staff contacted Ms. Marybell Beigh, former Town of Westfield Historian, via email. Ms. Beigh replied that she is retired and that the Town Historian position has not been filled; she suggested EDR contact Westfield Town Supervisor Martha Bills. On October 15, 2020 EDR staff spoke with Ms. Bills by telephone and she stated that to her knowledge there are not any extant historic resources within the APE for Indirect Effects for the Facility in the Town of Westfield.
- On October 2, 2020 EDR staff contacted Ms. Donna Higginbotham, Town of Sherman Historian, by telephone. Ms. Higginbotham stated that she was not aware of any historic resources within the APE for Indirect Effects for the Facility in the Town of Sherman.
- On October 2, 2020 EDR staff contacted Ms. Mary Norcross, Town of Mina Historian, via telephone. Ms. Norcross replied by email and identified resources and features which are no longer extant, including four one-room schoolhouses and two sawmills. She stated that evidence of the sulfur spring for which Sulphur Springs Road is named is still present on the north side of the road.
- On October 2, 2020 EDR staff contacted Peter Ryan of the South Ripley Cemetery Association via email. Mr. Ryan replied by email on October 4 and noted the following resources: the South Ripley Cemetery, the South Ripley United Methodist Church, and the former South Ripley Grange Hall [10243 NE Sherman Road].
- On October 2, 2020 EDR staff attempted to contact the Yorker Museum in the Village of Sherman via email but did not receive a reply.

Altogether, local stakeholders identified a total of seven resources within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area, including one cemetery. The locations of resources identified through stakeholder consultation are shown on Figure 4.

3.0 HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Criteria for Evaluating the Significance of Historic Resources

Historically significant properties are defined herein to include buildings, districts, objects, structures and/or sites that have been listed in the S/NRHP, as well as those properties that SHPO has formally determined are eligible for listing in the S/NRHP. Criteria set forth by the National Park Service for evaluating historic properties (36 CFR 60.4) state that a historic building, district, object, structure or site is significant (i.e., eligible for listing in the S/NRHP) if the property conveys (CFR, 2004; NPS, 1990):

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and:

- (A) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (B) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (C) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (D) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Properties within the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area that have been previously determined S/NRHP-eligible include commercial buildings and residences in village or hamlet settings. There are numerous nineteenth and early-twentieth century structures (primarily residences and farmsteads) within the APE for Indirect Effects and 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area that have not been previously evaluated by SHPO for S/NRHP eligibility. Historic farmhouses within the APE for Indirect Effects and 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area are typically Greek Revival, Italianate, or vernacular residences derived from these two styles, with occasional Queen Anne-style decorative elements. These types of resources are typically determined S/NRHP-eligible under S/NRHP Criterion C (i.e., they “embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction” [CFR, 2004]), and often derive their significance from being representative examples of vernacular nineteenth-century architectural styles that retain their overall integrity of design and materials. Two cemeteries dating to the nineteenth century are located within the APE for Indirect Effects and have not been previously evaluated by SHPO to determine if they are S/NRHP-eligible. Cemeteries are not typically eligible for listing unless they satisfy S/NRHP Criteria Consideration D which stipulates a cemetery may be eligible “if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events” (NPS, 1990). The architectural integrity of historic

resources throughout the 2-Mile and 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Areas is highly variable, with most showing noticeable alteration to materials and form, thereby compromising their potential historic integrity and S/NRHP eligibility.

3.2 Historic Resources Survey Methods

EDR conducted a historic resources survey of the Facility's APE for Indirect Effects in accordance with the SHPO *Guidelines for Solar Facility Development Cultural Resources Survey Work* (SHPO, 2020a), which require the following for the assessment of historic and cultural resources associated with the development of ground-mounted solar facility projects covering 100 acres or more in New York State:⁵

Visual Impact Area for Historic Resources

4. Solar arrays covering 100 acres or more.

- i. Complete a GIS analysis of areas that will have positive visibility of the solar field based upon topography only (do not factor in vegetation).
- ii. A survey** of all properties 50 years old or older within 2-miles of the solar array ZVI should be completed by a 36 CFR 61 qualified consultant.
- iii. Identification of any New York State and/or National Register listed property or district or National Historic Landmark within 5-miles of project ZVI.⁶

** The determined distance of survey from the solar field is for those areas that fall within the ZVI as established by the GIS analysis only. Qualified (36 CFR 61) consultants are required to document only those properties that in their professional opinion may meet the National Register criteria.

The historic resources survey included review of previous historic resources surveys within the APE for Indirect Effects (described above in Section 2.2), consultation with SHPO and local stakeholders (described above in Sections 1.4 and 2.4), site visits to identify and evaluate potential historic resources within the APE for Indirect Effects, and supplemental research on specific historic properties (as necessary).

Historic resources survey fieldwork included systematically walking and/or driving public roads and rights-of-way to photograph and evaluate the S/NRHP eligibility of resources within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects. The two NRHP-listed resources in Pennsylvania that are within the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects were also photographed. The historic resources survey fieldwork was conducted on October 15 and 16, 2020. When properties that appeared to satisfy S/NRHP eligibility criteria were identified, the

⁵ Although a portion of the APE for Indirect Effects is located within Pennsylvania, the survey methodology described herein is limited to New York State only.

⁶ The SHPO *Guidelines* define a Zone of Visual Impact, or ZVI, that is synonymous with the APE for Indirect Effects defined in this report.

existing conditions of the property were documented by EDR's architectural historian using CRIS Trekker 2.0 and the CRIS Mobile Pro application to collect geospatial location data. Photographs of the building(s) (and associated property when necessary) and field notes describing the style, physical characteristics and materials (e.g., number of stories, plan, external siding, roof, foundation, and sash), condition, physical integrity, and other noteworthy characteristics were recorded for each resource. The digital Trekker survey forms were submitted to SHPO for review on November 5, 2020.

EDR's evaluation of historic resources within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects focused on the physical condition and integrity (with respect to design, materials, feeling, and association) to assess the potential architectural significance of each resource. Note that all properties included in the historic resources survey were photographed and assessed from public rights-of-way. The condition and integrity of all resources were evaluated based solely on the visible exterior of the structures. No inspections or evaluations requiring access to the interior of buildings, or any portion of private property, were conducted as part of this assessment. In accordance with the SHPO *Guidelines for Solar Facility Development Cultural Resources Survey Work*, buildings that were not sufficiently old (i.e., are less than 50 years in age), that lacked historic or architectural integrity, or have been evaluated by EDR's architectural historians as lacking historical or architectural significance were *not* included in or documented during the survey.

3.3 Evaluation of Previously Identified Historic Resources

Three previously identified historic resources were identified within the APE for Indirect Effects using the CRIS website. As described in Section 3.2, EDR staff reviewed each of these resources as part of historic resources fieldwork to document their current condition and evaluate their eligibility relative to S/NRHP eligibility criteria. The results of the historic resources survey are presented below.

S/NRHP-Listed Properties/Districts

For the two NRHP-listed resources within the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects, both of which are located in Pennsylvania, no change in S/NRHP status is recommended by EDR.

S/NRHP-Eligible Properties and Districts

No resources previously determined to be S/NRHP-eligible by SHPO are located within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects.

Properties with Undetermined S/NRHP Eligibility

One previously identified resource for which there is no formal S/NRHP eligibility determination is located within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects:

- The South Ripley Cemetery is a 1.5-acre community burying ground established in 1836 (see Inset 1). It is set back approximately 850 feet from NE Sherman Road at the end of an unpaved private drive, atop a small hill surrounded by agricultural fields. Design features include a central drive or walk marked by a pair of mature hydrangeas. Burial markers date from the mid-nineteenth century to the early-twenty-first century and are generally arranged in eight to 10 parallel rows oriented on a north-south axis. According to a regional genealogical society, the cemetery contains over 200 burials, with the earliest dating from the 1830s (Painted Hills Genealogy Society, 2020). Several burial markers date from the 1840s and 1850s, with multiple family groups represented. The cemetery is not indicated on nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century county maps, but it appears to have been part of a 95-acre farm owned by Mead Roberts (1836-1917) from prior to 1867 to at least 1900. Roberts is buried in the cemetery (Stewart, 1867; Beers, 1881; UCSB, 1900; Painted Hills Genealogical Society, 2020).



Inset 1. South Ripley Cemetery, view to the east.

The South Ripley Cemetery appears to meet National Register Criteria Consideration D for its association with the early settlement period of the hamlet of South Ripley. Since relatively few structures remain from this period, the cemetery is the resource that best represents the early history of the community of South Ripley.

The locations of all previously identified resources are depicted on Figure 5 with photographs included in Appendix B.

3.4 Newly Identified Historic Resources

In addition to the previously identified historic resources, EDR identified one previously undocumented resource within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects that had not yet been previously surveyed.

- The property at 4704 Sherman Road/State Route 76 is a historic farmstead located in a largely unaltered rural setting which retains a high level of integrity (see Inset 2). The farmstead includes a circa-1850 Greek Revival-derived vernacular farmhouse with Queen Anne-style porch details, two barns, and one or more sheds on a 150-acre property consisting of cultivated fields and a forest stand. The residence is a two-story wood-frame building in a gable-and-ell configuration. A large gable-roofed barn measuring roughly 45-feet-by-85 feet is located approximately 130 feet east of the house. A single-story gable-roofed barn with a roughly 50-foot-square footprint is located approximately 40 feet southeast of the large barn. A small, roughly 12-foot-by-20-foot shed with a metal-clad gable roof is located west of the main barn. Aerial imagery suggests the presence of additional small structures which are not visible from the public right-of-way (Google, 2020).

The farmhouse is estimated to have been built in 1850. The farmstead appears on County maps beginning in 1854 (Keeney, 1854). By 1867 it was the property of Newell Swezey (1831-1911), a farmer engaged in grain farming and dairying, and his wife Sarah Sheldon Swezey (1838-1900) (Find A Grave, 2020a, 2020b; UCSB, 1860). By 1915, the farm consisted of 125 acres owned by John Charles Kehrli (1864-1943, born in Switzerland), who lived there with his wife Alwina Papenfuss Kehrli (1871 or 1873-1918, born in Germany), and their eight children (New York State Census, 1915; Find A Grave, 2020c, 2020d). As of 2020, the property has been enlarged to 150 acres and is still in agricultural use.

The farmstead at 4704 Sherman Road/State Route 76 appears to meet National Register Criterion C as an intact example of a nineteenth-century farmstead including a Greek Revival-derived vernacular farmhouse with Queen Anne-style porch details and two barns which appear to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The farmstead is recommended by EDR to meet eligibility criteria for listing in the S/NRHP.



Inset 2. 4704 Sherman Road/State Route 76, view to the northeast.

The location of 4704 Sherman Road/State Route 76 is depicted on Figure 5 with photographs included in Appendix B.

3.5 Locally Identified Historic Resources

As described in Section 2.4, seven resources not included in CRIS were identified through consultation with local stakeholders. All of the resources are located within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and six of the seven resources are located within the APE for Indirect Effects. Descriptions of these resources and recommendations of S/NRHP eligibility based on field evaluation are provided below:

- South Ripley United Methodist Church (10008 NE Sherman Road) is a wood-frame Gothic Revival-derived vernacular church built between 1881 and 1916 (see Appendix B, Survey ID 5; Beers, 1881; Rand McNally, 1916). The church has lost architectural integrity due to the addition of vinyl siding and replacement windows as well as the alteration of the entry portico. The resource does not appear to meet S/NRHP eligibility criteria and is not recommended by EDR to be eligible for listing in the S/NRHP.
- Three extant former one-room schoolhouses were identified at 10638 Irish Road (former District 7 School; outside the APE for Indirect Effects; see Appendix B, Survey ID 9), 4309 Miller Road (former District 8 School; see Appendix B, Survey ID 6), and 4685 NE Sherman Road (former District 9 School; see Appendix B, Survey ID 4). The schoolhouses are all single-story wood-frame buildings that appear to date from the mid-nineteenth

century. All three buildings lack architectural integrity as a result of additions and alterations using modern materials and are not recommended by EDR for listing in the S/NRHP.

- The former South Ripley Grange Hall (10243 NE Sherman Road) is a single-story wood-frame building with a gable roof (see Appendix B, Survey ID 3). The building is identified as the South Ripley Grange Hall on a 1916 road map (Rand McNally, 1916). The building has lost integrity due to alterations using modern materials and is not recommended by EDR for listing in the S/NRHP.
- The Ripley Rod and Gun Club (9820 Rod & Gun Club Road) appears to be located at the end of a private road and was not visible from the public right-of-way (ROW) along Ottoway Road. EDR was unable to recommend whether the resource meets S/NRHP eligibility criteria.
- Holdridge Corners Cemetery (approximately 9852 Sulphur Springs Road) could not be located during fieldwork (see Appendix B, Survey ID 7). The cemetery is located on private property and was not visible from the public ROW, therefore EDR was unable to recommend whether the resource meets S/NRHP eligibility criteria. A genealogy website entry identifies the location as “on Sulphur Springs Road almost opposite of Sinden Road” and describes the cemetery as consisting of a “few broken pieces of stones in a high-grass area of a cow pasture” (Mills, 1999).

The five locally identified resources which were visible from the public ROW were field evaluated and did not appear to meet S/NRHP eligibility criteria. Therefore, in keeping with the SHPO *Guidelines for Solar Facility Development Cultural Resources Survey Work*, these resources were not inventoried in Trekker.

The results of the historic resources survey are listed in Table 1. These results include updated recommendations of S/NRHP eligibility for previously identified historic resources, as well as recommendations of eligibility for newly surveyed resources. The locations of all resources surveyed are depicted on Figure 5, with photographs included as Appendix B.

Table 1. Historic Resources Survey Results

Survey ID	Resource Identification Number	Name and/or Description	Address	S/NRHP Eligibility Determination (SHPO)	S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation (EDR)	Municipality	County and State	Distance from the Facility (Miles)
1	N/A	South Ripley Cemetery, a 1.5-acre community burying ground established in 1836.	NE Sherman Road/County Road 64	S/NRHP Eligibility Undetermined	S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)	Town of Ripley	Chautauqua County, NY	0.0
2	N/A	A nineteenth-century farmstead consisting of a circa-1850 vernacular residence and two barns.	4704 Sherman Road/State Route 76	N/A	S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)	Town of Ripley	Chautauqua County, NY	0.0
3	N/A	South Ripley Grange Hall, a single-story wood-frame building.	10243 NE Sherman Road	N/A	Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)	Town of Ripley	Chautauqua County, NY	<0.1
4	N/A	District 9 School, a circa-1860 former one-room schoolhouse used as a residence.	4685 NE Sherman Road	N/A	Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)	Town of Ripley	Chautauqua County, NY	<0.1
5	N/A	South Ripley United Methodist Church, a circa-1900 Gothic Revival-derived vernacular church.	10008 NE Sherman Road	N/A	Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)	Town of Ripley	Chautauqua County, NY	<0.1
6	N/A	District 8 School, a circa-1860 former one-room schoolhouse used as a residence.	4309 Miller Road	N/A	Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)	Town of Ripley	Chautauqua County, NY	<0.1
7	N/A	Holdridge Corners Cemetery, an early-nineteenth-century cemetery.	Approximately 9852 Sulphur Springs Road	N/A	Unable to locate resource	Town of Mina	Chautauqua County, NY	0.1

Survey ID	Resource Identification Number	Name and/or Description	Address	S/NRHP Eligibility Determination (SHPO)	S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation (EDR)	Municipality	County and State	Distance from the Facility (Miles)
8	N/A	Ripley Rod and Gun Club	9820 Rod & Gun Club Road	N/A	Resource not visible from Public ROW	Town of Ripley	Chautauqua County, NY	0.5
9	N/A	District 7 School, a circa-1860 former one-room schoolhouse used as a residence.	10638 Irish Road	N/A	Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)	Town of Ripley	Chautauqua County, NY	1.0
10	NR 83002243	Short's Hotel, an 1877 brick Italianate-style commercial building.	90 South Pearl Street	NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)	NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)	North East Borough	Erie County, PA	4.0
11	NR 90000414	North East Historic District, consisting of 114 contributing resources including mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial, residential, religious, and institutional buildings.	North Pearl, Park, Gibson, Lake, Main, Vine, and Division Streets	NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)	NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)	North East Borough	Erie County, PA	4.0

3.6 Representative Resources Over 50 Years Old

As part of the historic resources survey fieldwork, EDR also photographed representative previously unidentified resources over 50 years of age within the APE for Indirect Effects that, in the opinion of EDR's architectural historians, did not meet S/NRHP eligibility criteria. The purpose was to document the most common and representative resource types within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects. A supplemental photolog of representative views throughout the APE for Indirect Effects to illustrate resources that in the opinion of EDR's architectural historians, did not satisfy S/NRHP eligibility criteria is included as Appendix C.

Buildings that were photographed were over 50 years old and represented a range of qualities that did not warrant further investigation such as a lack of integrity due to inappropriate alterations and/or lack of architectural significance. Examples include farmsteads with nineteenth-century residences (see Appendix C, Photographs 1-4), farmsteads which have lost their original residences (see Appendix C, Photograph 5), and residences representing common nineteenth-century styles (see Appendix C, Photographs 6-10).

Resources less than 50 years of age are eligible for listing in the S/NRHP only if they are of exceptional importance, i.e., they meet National Register Criteria Consideration G (NPS, 1990). No resources less than 50 years old meeting National Register Criteria Consideration G were identified during the survey. Resources within the 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects that are less than 50 years old included agricultural buildings, Ranch-style residences, prefabricated and modular residences, and modern residences.

4.0 SUMMARY

4.1 Summary of Historic Resources Survey

On behalf of ConnectGen Chautauqua County LLC, EDR has prepared this Historic Resources Survey Report for the proposed South Ripley Solar Project, located in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York.

A total of 11 resources were evaluated as part of the historic resources survey. The results of the survey are summarized as follows:

- No change in status is recommended for the two NRHP-listed resources located within the 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects (the North East Historic District [NR 90000414] and Short's Hotel [NR 83002243]), which are located in Pennsylvania.
- A total of two resources (a mid-nineteenth-century cemetery and a mid-nineteenth-century farmstead) are recommended by EDR to be S/NRHP-eligible.
- A total of five resources identified through consultation with local stakeholders are recommended by EDR to be not S/NRHP-eligible.
- One resource identified through consultation with local stakeholders (Ripley Rod and Gun Club) was not visible from the public ROW.
- One resource identified through consultation with local stakeholders (Holdridge Corners Cemetery) could not be located.

The results of the historic resources survey are provided in Table 1. These results include updated recommendations of S/NRHP eligibility for previously identified historic resources, as well as recommendations of eligibility for newly surveyed resources. The locations of all resources surveyed are depicted on Figure 5, with photographs included in Appendix B. Representative photographs of resources over 50 years of age that do not appear to meet S/NRHP eligibility criteria are included in Appendix C.

In addition to the documentation provided in this report, narrative descriptions and photographs for each resource recommended by EDR as S/NRHP-eligible have been entered into Trekker survey forms and submitted via SHPO's on-line CRIS portal for review by SHPO staff, along with an annotated properties list of all properties assessed as part of this survey in Microsoft Excel format (included in this report as Table 1).

4.2 Summary of Facility's Potential Effect on Historic Resources

No direct physical impacts to historic resources will occur because of the Facility. Due to the minimal number of historic resources documented as part of this survey, no further historic resource surveys are recommended for the Facility.

Per the requirements of 19 NYCRR § 900-2.10, the historic resources survey will assist with the identification of visually sensitive sites and key viewpoints for the development of visual simulations, to be included in Exhibit 8 (Visual Impacts) of the Section 94-c Application. EDR is requesting that SHPO review the results of this historic resources survey report and provide determinations of eligibility.

Much of the Facility's APE for Indirect Effects is located in areas consisting of farmsteads and agricultural landscapes with a traditional rural character. These landscape elements include open fields, pastures, hedgerows, and other rural landscape features. Many of these open areas extend beyond the APE for Indirect Effects, cross municipal and parcel boundaries, are inaccessible to the public, and are not associated with any specific historic resources previously identified by SHPO. Consequently, the various rural landscapes and open agricultural areas located within the APE for Indirect Effects were not evaluated as specific historic resources as a part of this survey. However, the potential effects of the Facility on these rural landscapes will be evaluated as part of a Visual Impact Assessment to be included as part of the Section 94-c Application for the Facility.

As described in Section 1.2, the Facility will interconnect with the electrical grid and the 230 kV Ripley to Dunkirk transmission line with either a POI with associated transmission equipment connecting directly to the existing substation or a new switchyard and three-breaker ring bus adjacent to the existing National Grid substation. Because an overhead transmission line will not be required, it is not anticipated that there will be any potential visual effects on historic resources.

In addition, the historic resources survey report and subsequent visual effects information to be included in the Section 94-c Application will provide the basis for ongoing consultation with SHPO (and other applicable consulting parties) regarding avoidance, minimization, and/or potential mitigation for visual and auditory impacts of the Facility on aboveground historic resources. The Applicant anticipates that ongoing consultation with SHPO (and other applicable consulting parties) regarding potential visual and auditory impacts of the Facility on aboveground historic resources will continue through the Section 94-c process and that SHPO's evaluation regarding potential effects and/or identification of any required mitigation will be determined as part of SHPO review of the Facility under Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as applicable. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' review of the Facility under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation

Act would be triggered by submission of a Joint Application for Permit, which, if necessary, would occur following the submission of the Section 94-c Application.

4.2.1 Potential Environmental Impacts

Potential effects of the Facility that may be relevant to consideration of effects on historic resources are summarized below. Impacts from the construction and operation of solar generation are largely the result of the fact that utility-scale solar energy facilities require a large area, or areas, for the collection and distribution of energy. Well-sited solar energy projects do not result in the significant visual impacts typical of other large-scale energy projects that require tall towers or smokestacks or generate condensate plumes or air pollution. Photovoltaic modules have a low profile (i.e., typically lower than 15 feet in height), which limits their visibility and potential visual effect in terms of the distance from which the modules will be visible. However, the large horizontal areas required to achieve the necessary scale of electrical production for utility-scale solar projects can result in visual impacts for viewers located in areas immediately adjacent to the project, or elevated viewpoints. The Applicant has sited the Facility in a rural agricultural region in order to minimize the need for land clearing.

Glare

Photovoltaic panels have a low profile (i.e., typically lower than 15 feet in height), which limits their visibility and potential visual effect in terms of the distance from which the panels will be visible. However, the large areas required to achieve the necessary scale of electrical production for utility-scale solar projects can result in visual impacts for viewers located in areas immediately adjacent to the project. In addition, glare is frequently raised as a possible concern for solar PV installations. PV panels are designed to absorb as much of the solar spectrum as possible to maximize efficiency. The potential for reflectivity or glare from a given PV system is decisively lower than the glare and reflectance generated by common reflective surfaces in the environments surrounding the given PV system. There is an inverse correlation between light absorption and reflection. Consequently, virtually all PV panels installed in recent years have at least one anti-reflective coating to minimize reflection and maximize absorption. Therefore, PV panels installed at the Facility will produce minimal glare due to an anti-reflective coating, but limited glare may be perceived during certain times. Exhibit 8 of the Section 94-c Application will provide a visual impact assessment of the proposed Facility, including an assessment of the extent, duration, and potential need for mitigation measures appropriate to avoid or minimize off-site glare impacts.

Sound

Similarly, solar projects do not produce noise that results in significant impacts or annoyance to neighboring residences, wildlife, or other sensitive receptors. Concerns about the sound emissions from a solar project are largely confined to the step-up transformer in the substation, electrical inverters and medium voltage transformers installed within the

interior of the various PV solar panel arrays, and some short-lived activities during construction. Transformer noise is typically described as a hum near the step-up transformer unit; however, the prominence of this noise diminishes quickly with distance. Typically, sound from solar facility equipment is inaudible at distances greater than 50 to 150 feet from the fenced boundary of a given facility. In addition, noise will be generated during project construction and during maintenance, primarily from vehicles and equipment operating along access routes and at work areas. However, these are temporary activities that will not typically generate sounds louder than routine noise sources such as farm equipment and vehicles passing on the road.

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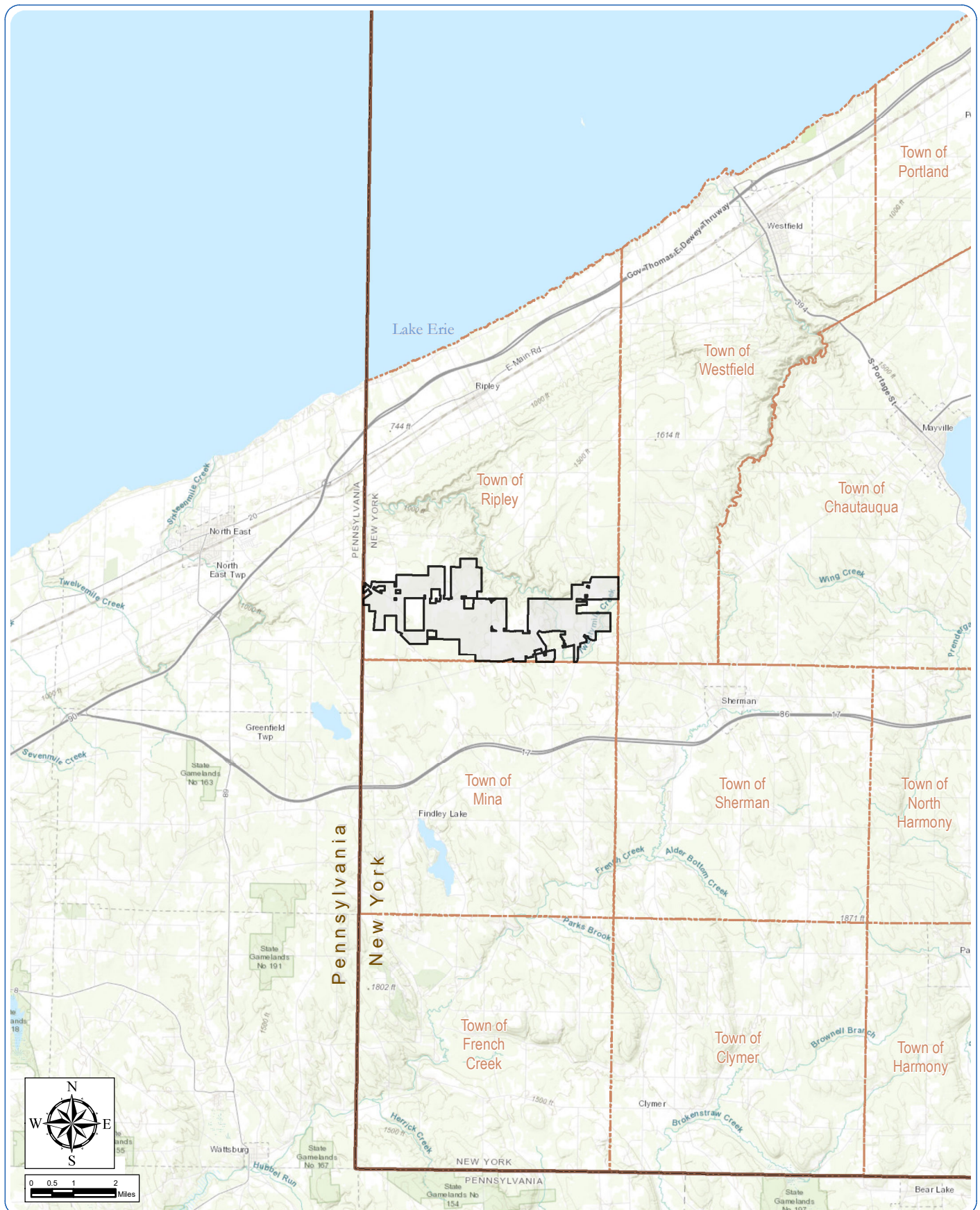
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Figures



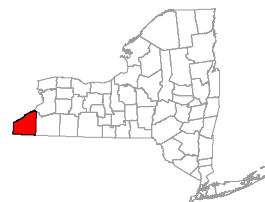
South Ripley Solar Project

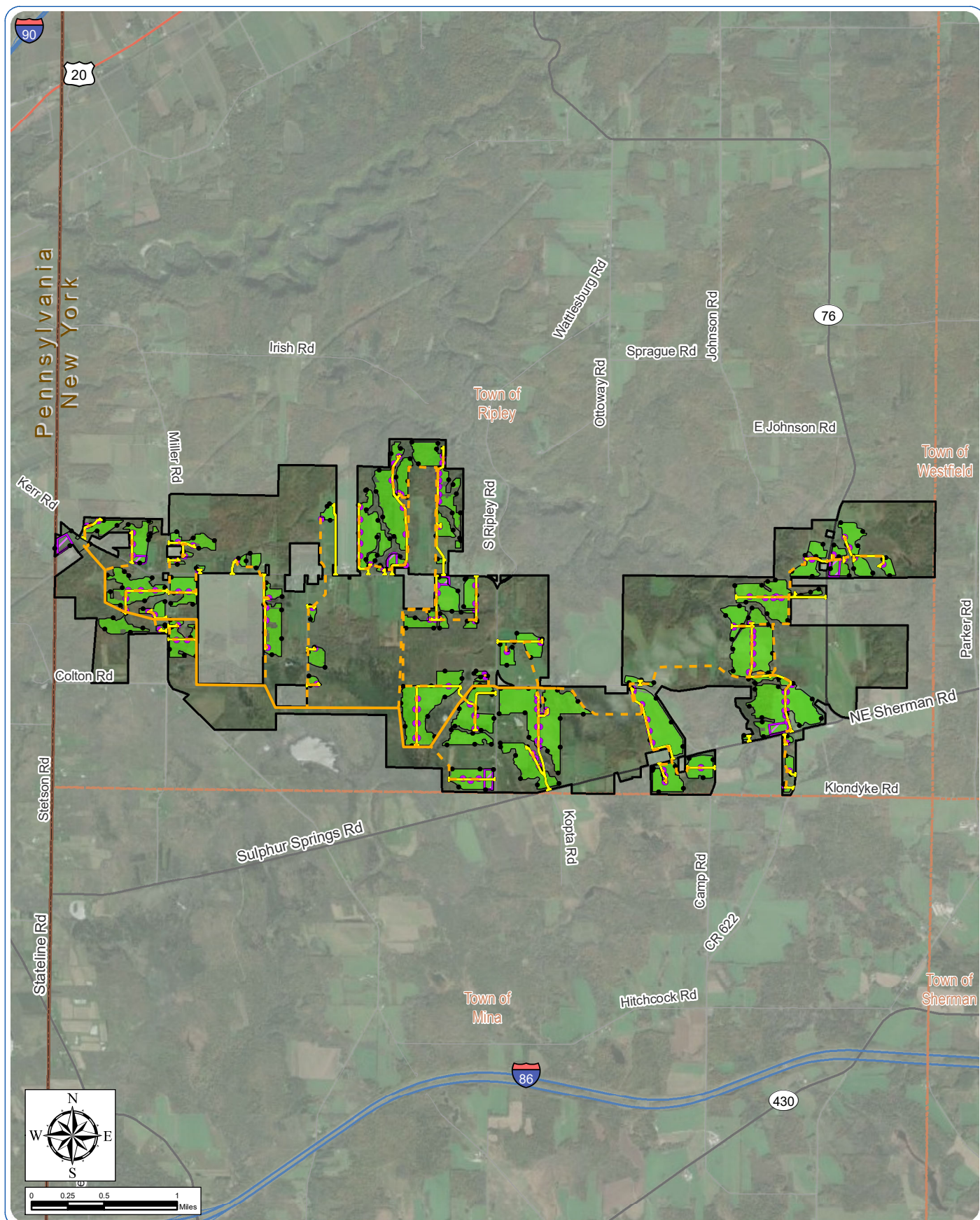
Town of Ripley, Chautauque County, New York

Figure 1: Regional Facility Location

Notes: 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Topographic Map" map service.
2. This map was generated in ArcMap on November 9, 2020. 3. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.

- Facility Area
- Town Boundary
- State Boundary





South Ripley Solar Project

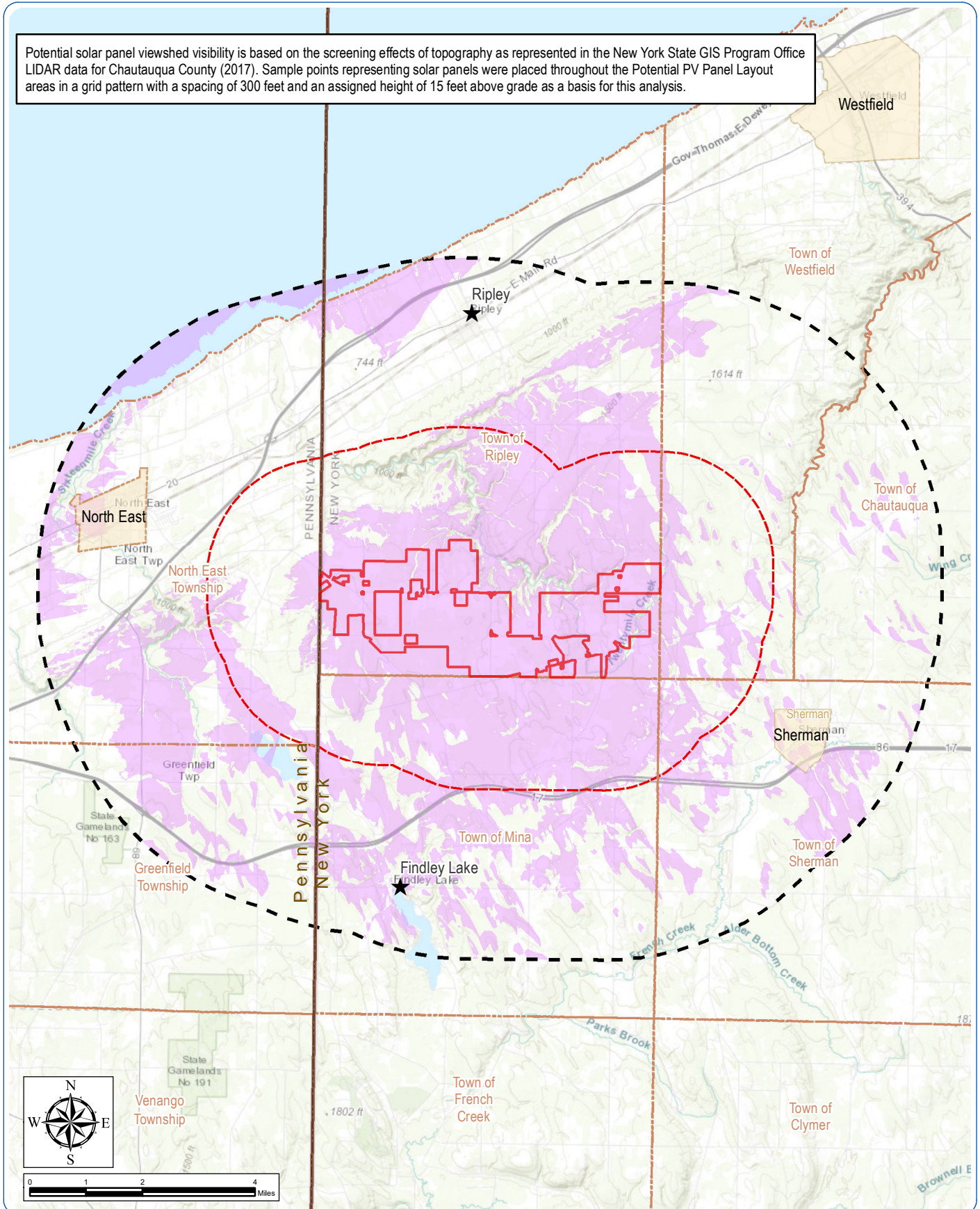
Town of Ripley, Chautauque County, New York

Figure 2: Proposed Facility

Notes: 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Imagery" map service. 2. This map was generated in ArcMap on January 21, 2021. 3. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.

- Inverter
- Underground Collection Line
- Overhead Collection Line
- Access Road
- Fenceline
- PV Array Area
- Facility Area
- State Boundary
- Town Boundary
- Laydown Yard

Potential solar panel viewshed visibility is based on the screening effects of topography as represented in the New York State GIS Program Office LIDAR data for Chautauqua County (2017). Sample points representing solar panels were placed throughout the Potential PV Panel Layout areas in a grid pattern with a spacing of 300 feet and an assigned height of 15 feet above grade as a basis for this analysis.



South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

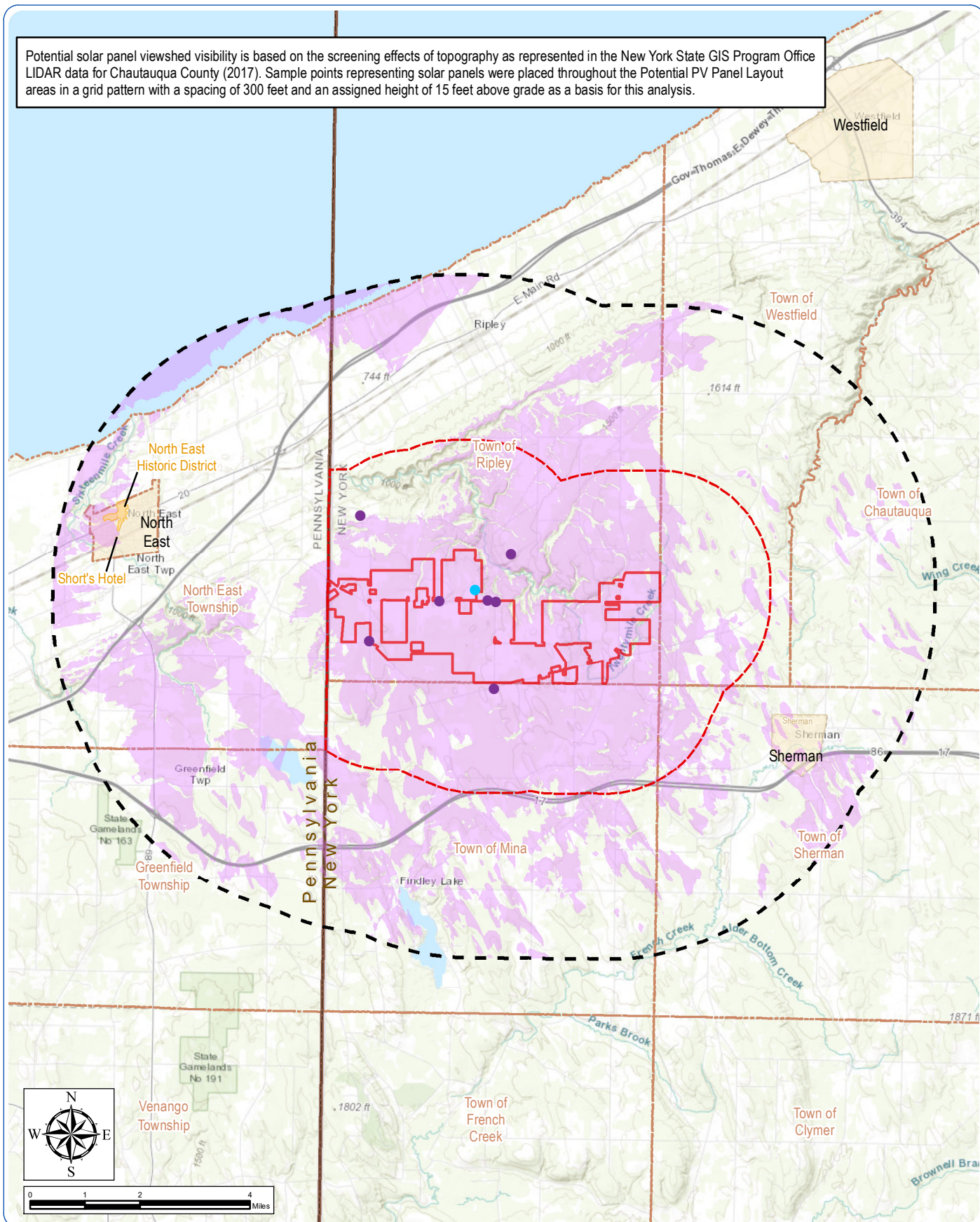
Figure 3: Historic Resources Study Area and APE for Indirect Effects

Notes: 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Topographic Map" map service.
2. This map was generated in ArcMap on November 24, 2020.
3. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.

- APE for Indirect Effects
- 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area
- 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area
- Hamlet
- Village Boundary
- Town Boundary
- Facility Area



Potential solar panel viewshed visibility is based on the screening effects of topography as represented in the New York State GIS Program Office LIDAR data for Chautauqua County (2017). Sample points representing solar panels were placed throughout the Potential PV Panel Layout areas in a grid pattern with a spacing of 300 feet and an assigned height of 15 feet above grade as a basis for this analysis.



South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Figure 4: Previously Identified Historic Resources

Notes: 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Topographic Map" map service.
2. This map was generated in ArcMap on February 22, 2021.
3. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.

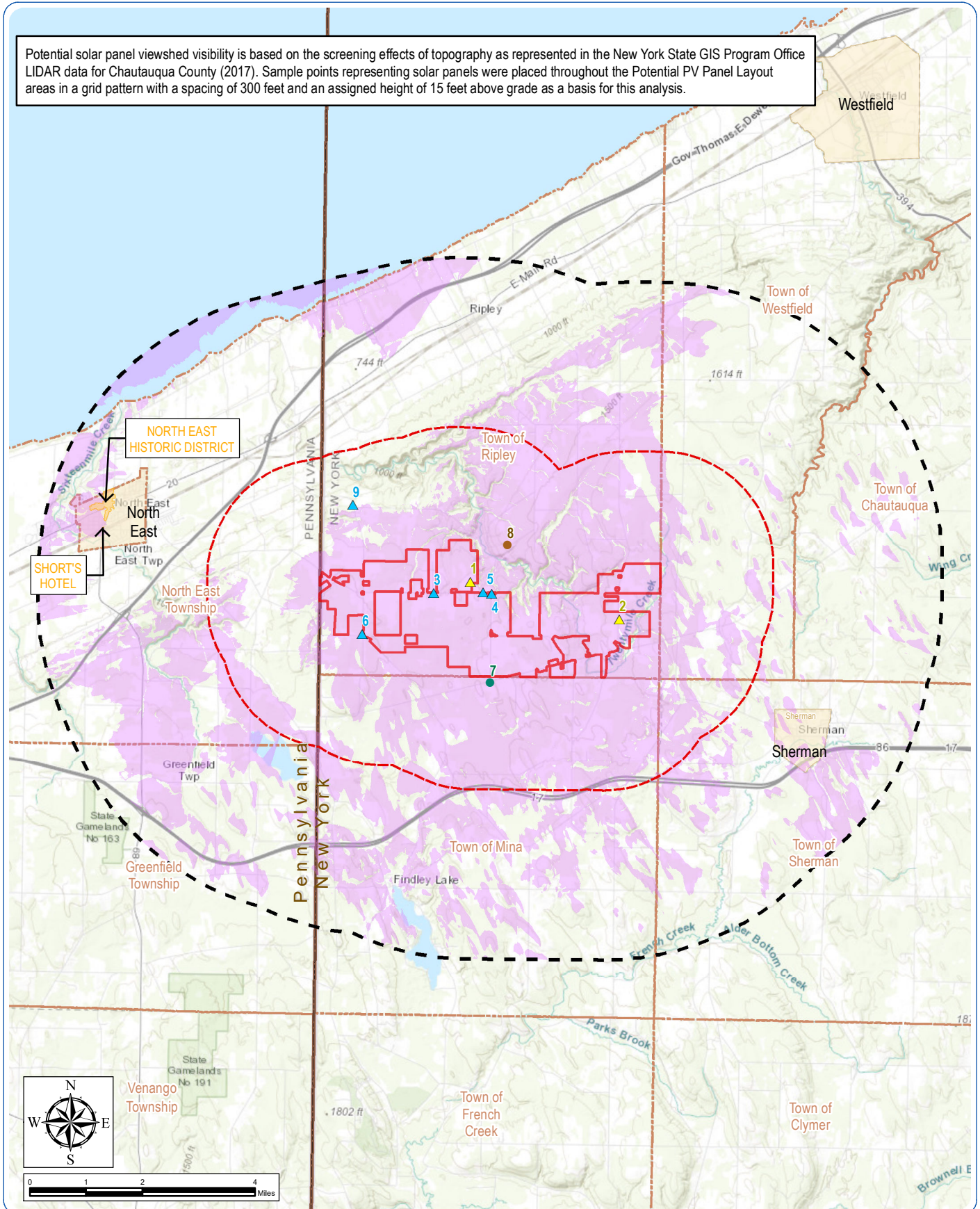
Previously Identified Historic Resource

- S/NRHP Eligibility Undetermined
- Locally Identified Resource
- NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)
- 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area
- 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area

- APE for Indirect Effects
- Facility Area
- Village Boundary
- Town Boundary
- State Boundary



Potential solar panel viewshed visibility is based on the screening effects of topography as represented in the New York State GIS Program Office LIDAR data for Chautauqua County (2017). Sample points representing solar panels were placed throughout the Potential PV Panel Layout areas in a grid pattern with a spacing of 300 feet and an assigned height of 15 feet above grade as a basis for this analysis.



South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Figure 5: Historic Resources Survey Results

Notes: 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Topographic Map" map service.
2. This map was generated in ArcMap on November 24, 2020.
3. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.

- ▲ S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)
- ▲ Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)
- Resource Not Visible from Public ROW
- Unable to Locate Resource
- NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)
- APE for Indirect Effects
- Facility Area
- 2-Mile Historic Resources Study Area
- 5-Mile Historic Resources Study Area
- Village Boundary
- Town Boundary
- State Boundary



Appendix A.
SHPO Correspondence



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

June 22, 2020

Mr. Grant Johnson
Senior Project Manager – Historic Preservation
Environmental Design & Research, D.P.C. (EDR)
217 Montgomery Street, Suite 100
Syracuse, NY 12303

Re: DPS
South Ripley Solar Project/270 MW/2000 acres
Towns of Ripley, Mina, and Westfield, Chautauqua County, NY
20PR03687

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the provided documentation in accordance with Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

Upon review of the Request for Consultation memorandum and Identification of Visually Sensitive Resources document provided to our office via CRIS on June 18, 2020, we concur with your general approach to the Historic Resource Survey, and we look forward to receiving any information on the Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) as well as your Methodology/Survey Work Plan. Upon approval of the ZVI and your Methodology/Survey Work Plan, you will be given access to the Trekker mobile survey application.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Jennifer Walkowski at Jennifer.walkowski@parks.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JWalkowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jennifer Walkowski
Historic Preservation Program Analyst
Survey and National Register Unit – Western NY Region

(via email)

19-F-0560 South Ripley Energy Center
Visual Impact Survey Request
DPS Comments
July 6, 2020

DPS staff advises that the following locations should be added as visually sensitive resources:

Public Lands and Recreational Resources

1. Gillard Rowing Center (Mercyhurst University – rowing team) - Findley Lake, NY 14736
2. Ripley Community Park, Park Avenue, Ripley NY
3. The Yorker Museum, Park Street, Sherman, NY 14781
4. Brushwood Folklore Center, 8881 Bailey Hill Rd, Sherman, NY 14781

High Use Public Areas

DPS Staff notes that the New York State Department of Transportation provides an Official Description of Highway Touring Routes, Scenic Byways and Bicycle Routes in New York State.

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/oom/transportation-systems/repository/2017%240tour-bk.pdf>

The Routes listed in the Visual Study are all listed in this publication.

1. NY-17 (Should be added to the list of roads even though it shares the route with I-86)
2. US 20 is listed in the study but should be noted as a Historic Route
<https://www.historicus20.com/index.html>

Additional Resources

1. Quincy Rural Cemetery – There is one famous grave of a US Congressman
2. East Ripley Cemetery – There are two famous graves; one US Congressman and one Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.
3. Sherman Cemetery

DPS staff advises that the five-mile study area should continue into Pennsylvania to ensure that visually sensitive resources are properly addressed. The following are resources to be considered in Pennsylvania:

Properties of Historic Significance

1. (NRHP) Short's Hotel – 90 S Pearl St, North East, PA 16428
2. (NRHP) North East Historic District – 21-1 N Pearl St, North East, PA 16428
"North East Historic District is a national historic district located at North East, Erie County, Pennsylvania. It includes 114 contributing buildings in the central business district and surrounding residential areas of North East. The district includes commercial, residential, institutional, and religious buildings. The buildings were built from the mid-19th to early-20th century and are in a variety of popular architectural styles including Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Italianate. Located at the center of the district is Gibson Park. Notable non-residential buildings include commercial buildings along East and West Main Street and South Lake Street,

the Concord Hotel, the Crescent Hose Company, Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church, and Methodist Church, two main buildings of St. Mary's Seminary, McCord Memorial Library (1916), and Heard Memorial School.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_East_Historic_District

Designated Scenic Resources

1. Seaway Trail – National Scenic Byway - PA

High Use Public Areas

1. North East Central School District
2. Mercyhurst University School of Health
3. NYS Bike Route 517 – Connects to Pennsylvania Bike Route Z – (These bike routes are part of the Northern Tier / US-30 Bike Route <https://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/adventure-cycling-route-network/northern-tier/>)
 - a. <https://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/RideaBike/Pages/Pennsylvania-Bicycle-Routes.aspx>
 - b. <https://www.penndot.gov/pages/all-news-details.aspx?newsid=507>


Public Lands and Recreational Resources

1. Howard Eaton Reservoir (boat launches, fishing, multi-use public trail, picnic areas) <https://greenfieldtownship.info/howard-eaton-reservoir-bulls-dam/>
2. Gibson Park

Additional Resources

1. Lake View Country Club - 8351 Station Road, North East, PA 16428
2. Beach Glass Estates on Lake Erie (The Old St. Barnabas House) North East, PA

Close

Information Requests							
Process	Status	Reviewer	Review Type	Request Type	Request Entity	Request Item	Request Description
	Information Requested	Jennifer Walkowski	Survey and Evaluation	Request a New Trekker Survey			Per your Methodology, please complete a Trekker survey. Upon completion of the field work the surveyor will submit the digital Trekker survey forms for review by Survey/National Register Unit Staff. The final steps in the survey process will be to submit a pdf of the Historic Resources Survey Report and a separate Annotated Properties List in Excel via CRIS. The standalone Excel spreadsheet is to include the following fields: property name (if any); address; municipality; county; USN (if any); current NRHP status; current/proposed NRHP criteria/recommended area(s) of significance; integrity; recommended NRHP status; and a primary image. Contact Jennifer Walkowski at jennifer.walkowski@parks.ny.gov with any questions.

Attachments					
Attachment	Reviewer	Review Type	Type	Name	Description
No Attachment Records					

Appendix B.

Photographs – Historic Resources Survey Results



Survey ID: 1
Resource ID: N/A

Address: NE Sherman Road/
County Road 64

Municipality: Town of Ripley,
Chautauqua County, New York

Name and/or Description:
South Ripley Cemetery, a 1.5-
acre community burying ground
established in 1836.

**Previous S/NRHP Eligibility
Determination:** S/NRHP
Eligibility Undetermined

**EDR S/NRHP Eligibility
Recommendation:** S/NRHP-
Eligible (EDR Recommended)



Survey ID: 2
Resource ID: N/A

Address: 4704 Sherman
Road/State Route 76

Municipality: Town of Ripley,
Chautauqua County, New York

Name and/or Description: A
nineteenth-century farmstead
consisting of a circa 1850
vernacular residence and two
barns.

**Previous S/NRHP Eligibility
Determination:** N/A

**EDR S/NRHP Eligibility
Recommendation:** S/NRHP-
Eligible (EDR Recommended)

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix B: Historic Resources Survey Results

Sheet 1 of 5



Survey ID: 3
Resource ID: N/A

Address: 10243 NE Sherman Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Name and/or Description: South Ripley Grange Hall, a circa 1900 single-story building.

Previous S/NRHP Eligibility Determination: N/A

EDR S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)



Survey ID: 4
Resource ID: N/A

Address: 4685 NE Sherman Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Name and/or Description: District 9 School, a mid-nineteenth-century single-story schoolhouse.

Previous S/NRHP Eligibility Determination: N/A

EDR S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix B: Historic Resources Survey Results

Sheet 2 of 5



Survey ID: 5
Resource ID: N/A

Address: 10008 NE Sherman Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Name and/or Description: South Ripley United Methodist Church, a circa 1900 Gothic Revival-derived vernacular church.

Previous S/NRHP Eligibility Determination: N/A

EDR S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)



Survey ID: 6
Resource ID: N/A

Address: 4309 Miller Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Name and/or Description: District 8 School, a mid-nineteenth-century single-story schoolhouse.

Previous S/NRHP Eligibility Determination: N/A

EDR S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix B: Historic Resources Survey Results

Sheet 3 of 5



Survey ID: 7
Resource ID: N/A

Address: Approximately 9852 Sulphur Springs Road

Municipality: Town of Mina, Chautauqua County, New York

Name and/or Description: Holdridge Corners Cemetery.

Previous S/NRHP Eligibility Determination: N/A

EDR S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: Unable to Locate



Survey ID: 9
Resource ID: N/A

Address: 10638 Irish Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Name and/or Description: District 7 School, a mid-nineteenth-century single-story schoolhouse.

Previous S/NRHP Eligibility Determination: N/A

EDR S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: Not S/NRHP-Eligible (EDR Recommended)

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix B: Historic Resources Survey Results



Survey ID: 10
Resource ID: NR 83002243

Address: 90 South Pearl Street

Municipality: North East Borough, Erie County, Pennsylvania

Name and/or Description: Short's Hotel, an 1877 brick Italianate-style commercial building.

Previous S/NRHP Eligibility Determination: NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)

EDR S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)



Survey ID: 11
Resource ID: NR 90000414

Address: North Pearl, Park, Gibson, Lake, Main, Vine, and Division Streets

Municipality: North East Borough, Erie County, Pennsylvania

Name and/or Description: North East Historic District, consisting of 114 contributing resources including mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial, residential, religious, and institutional buildings.

Previous S/NRHP Eligibility Determination: NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)

EDR S/NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: NRHP-Listed Resource (PA)

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix B: Historic Resources Survey Results

Sheet 5 of 5

Appendix C.

Photographs – Representative Resources Over 50 Years old



Photograph 1

Address: 3968 Sherman
Ripley Road

Municipality: Town of
Ripley, Chautauqua County,
New York

Representative farmstead
with a nineteenth-century
residence.



Photograph 2

Address: 3968 Sherman
Ripley Road

Municipality: Town of
Ripley, Chautauqua County,
New York

Representative farmstead
with a nineteenth-century
residence.

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix C: Photographs – Representative Resources over 50 Years Old

Sheet 1 of 5



Photograph 3

Address: 9357 NE Sherman Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Representative farmstead with a nineteenth-century residence.



Photograph 4

Address: 9357 NE Sherman Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Representative farmstead with a nineteenth-century residence.

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix C: Photographs – Representative Resources over 50 Years Old

Sheet 2 of 5



Photograph 5

Address: 9279 NE Sherman Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Representative farmstead with a late-twentieth-century residence.



Photograph 6

Address: 3553 Pelton Road

Municipality: Town of Mina, Chautauqua County, New York

Representative nineteenth-century residence with Italianate elements.

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix C: Photographs – Representative Resources over 50 Years Old

Sheet 3 of 5



Photograph 7

Address: 5148 Ottaway Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Representative Greek Revival-style residence.



Photograph 8

Address: 5363 Wattlesburg Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Representative Greek Revival-style residence.

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix C: Photographs – Representative Resources over 50 Years Old

Sheet 4 of 5



Photograph 9

Address: 5547 Parker Road

Municipality: Town of Westfield, Chautauqua County, New York

Representative nineteenth-century residence with twentieth-century alterations.



Photograph 10

Address: 10298 NE Sherman Road

Municipality: Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Representative Greek Revival-derived vernacular residence.

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Appendix C: Photographs – Representative Resources over 50 Years Old

Sheet 5 of 5