

Existing View



Existing Condition

Viewpoint 16 is also located on County Route 6, in the central portion of the Facility Site, approximately 179 feet from the nearest proposed PV panel array. It is representative of open roadside views available to area residents from their homes and local roads. The existing view to the south from this location features the paved road in the immediate foreground, backed by an unmowed road shoulder/ditch. Beyond this unmowed roadside vegetation, an open green hay field extends from the foreground into the middle ground and dominates the view. The field rises gently to a high point on the right side of the view that blocks visibility of more distant landscape features. Elsewhere, the field is backed by dense forest on rolling topography that forms a strong horizon line and encloses the view. A cable from an overhead utility line crosses an expanse of open sky and, other than the road and a single fence post, is the only man-made feature in this view. The view has a rural/agricultural character, but lack of distant views and interesting focal points results in moderate scenic quality.

Proposed View



Proposed View

With the proposed Facility in place, a fenced panel array now occupies the adjacent hay field. Along with the backside of the panels and the perimeter fencing, an internal access road is also visible as part of the array. The panels are now the dominant landscape features and become the focal point of this view. The panels change the agricultural character of landscape and block views of more distant landscape features. Their presence obscures and flattens the rolling topography and creates a hard line against the sky. They also alter the open character of the view and make the road more of an enclosed corridor.

View with Mitigation



Landscape Mitigation

With proposed mitigation plantings in place, clumps of low trees are now present between the road and the fenced panel array. The plantings break up the horizontal line of the panels and screen significant portions of the array. Although the plantings at this size have an ornamental feel they blend well with the existing vegetation, draw viewer attention and substantially reduce the dominance of the panels. The screening value of the plantings could be increased with the addition of more shrubs, although doing so would further enclose the formerly open view.

Viewpoint Sensitivity¹:

Scenic Quality:

- Low
- Moderate
- High

Viewer Exposure:

- Continuous
- Repeated/Regular
- Occasional/Brief
- Rare

¹ 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 by the review panel.

Contrast Rating Scores²:

Component	Score		Contrast Rating 5-7 Years
	Install	5-7 Years	
Landform	2.6	2.0	Moderate
Vegetation	1.5	1.5	Minimal/Moderate
Land Use	2.9	2.4	Moderate/Appreciable
Water	NA	NA	NA
Sky	2.4	2.3	Moderate/Appreciable
Viewer Activity	2.8	2.3	Moderate/Appreciable
AVERAGE	2.4	2.1	Moderate

² 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:

Component	Install		Component	Mitigation	
	Score			Score	
	Low	High		Low	High
Landform	2.5	3	Landform	1.5	2.5
Vegetation	0	3	Vegetation	0	3
Land Use	2.5	3	Land Use	1.5	3
Water	NA	NA	Water	NA	NA
Sky	1.5	3	Sky	1	3
Viewer Activity	2.5	4	Viewer Activity	1.5	3.5

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

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

Existing Conditions



Simulation



South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Section 94-c Application. Matter No. 21-00750 | Viewpoint 16, County Route 6 in the Town of Ripley - 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: 20
County: Chautauqua
Town: Ripley
Location: NYS Route 76
Latitude, Longitude:
 42.20058°N, 79.65752°W
Direction of View: South-Southeast
Distance to Nearest PV Panel in View:
 84 feet
Distance Zone: Near-foreground

Visual Resources

Landscape Type: Rural Residential/
 Agricultural
User Group: Local Residents, Through-
 Travelers
VSR: NYS Route 76, Concord Grape Belt
 State Heritage Area

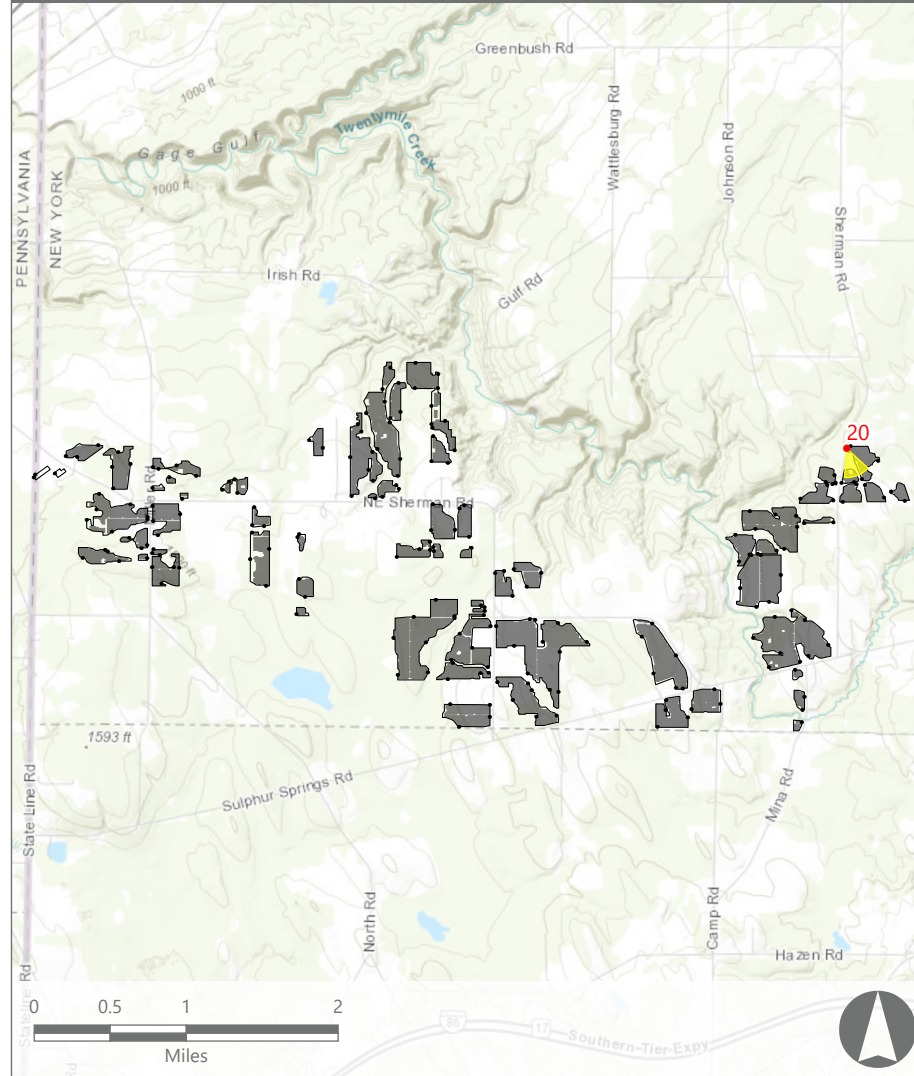
Photograph Information

Date Taken: August 06, 2020
Time: 1:17 PM
Camera: Nikon D7100
Resolution: 24.1 Megapixels
Lens Focal Length: 24 mm
Camera Elevation: 1,554 feet
Field of View: 53°

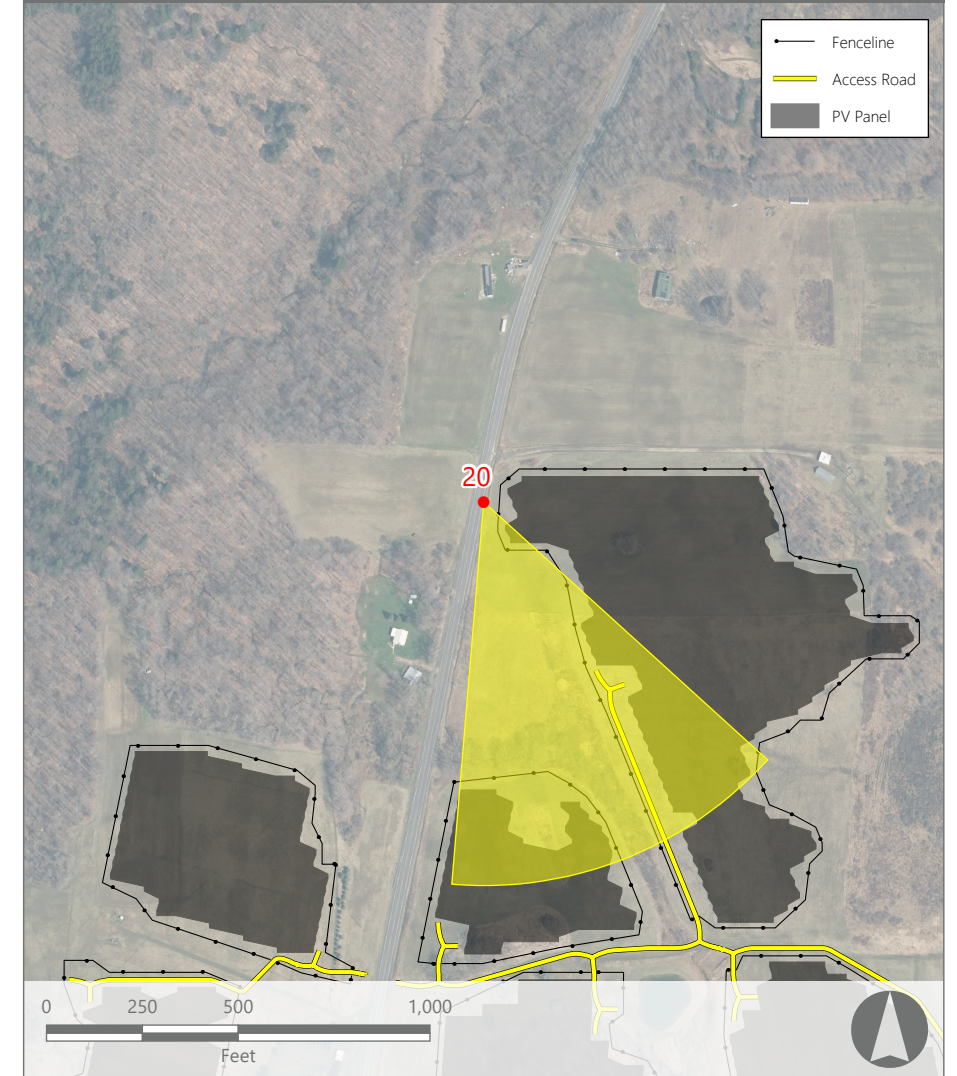
Project Information

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

Context Map



Location Map



Context Photo: View to the East-Northeast



Context Photo: View to the East-Southeast



Simulation Photo: View to the South-Southeast



Context Photo: View to the South

South Ripley Solar Project

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Existing View



Existing Condition

Viewpoint 20 is on State Route 76 in the Town of Ripley, approximately 84 feet from the nearest proposed PV panel array. This viewpoint is located in the northeastern corner of the Facility Site and is representative of views available to local residents and through travelers on the state highway. The view to the southeast from this location features a mix of green hay fields, forests, and woodlots on rolling terrain. Wildflowers in the immediate foreground are backed by an open hay field that extends to a band of successional old field vegetation in the middle ground. From there, the land rises and includes a mix of rolling fields and small woodlots. An undulating band of trees in the background represents the visible horizon line, which is viewed against a bright, partly cloudy sky. The expansive, pastoral view lacks any man-made features and has a strong feeling of openness and rural character. It is a highly dynamic landscape with lots of movement and visual interest. The flowers in the foreground, along with the attractive mix of fields and forests on rolling topography at various distances from the viewer, result in high scenic quality at this viewpoint.

Proposed View



Proposed View

With the proposed Facility in place, the corner of a fenced panel array is visible in the immediate foreground on the left side of the view. This panel array is close enough to the viewer that details of the fencing and racking system are clearly visible. An extension of this array, bordered by an access road and enclosed by fencing, can be seen beyond the panels in the foreground progressing up the open slope to the background tree line on the left. Portions of an additional array can be seen through breaks in the middle ground woodlots on the right. Clearing of background trees in this area is also evident. Foreground panels are the focal point that initially catch one's eye, but viewer attention is then drawn to the abundance of more distant panels. The strong horizontal lines of the panels present contrast with the rolling topography and serve to flatten the landform. The panels' line, in combination with their dark color, also presents strong contrast with the bright sky. The ridgeline and sky no longer dominate the view. Although the existing vegetation and rolling topography help offset their contrast, the PV panels now dominate the view, reducing its scenic quality and agricultural character.

View with Mitigation



Landscape Mitigation

With proposed mitigation plantings in place, views of the background array on the right are well screened with minimal visibility of the array above the top of the plantings. The corner of the foreground array on the left is obscured, and the background array on the left is well screened with remaining visibility considerable softened by vegetation in both cases. The plantings blend with the vegetation in the background but appear somewhat ornamental at this stage of growth. The plantings effectively screen major portions of the panel array, but enclose the view and eliminate remaining views to the background hills.

Viewpoint Sensitivity¹:

Scenic Quality:

- Low
- Moderate
- High

Viewer Exposure:

- Continuous
- Repeated/Regular
- Occasional/Brief
- Rare

¹ 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 by the review panel.

Contrast Rating Scores²:

Component	Score		Contrast Rating 5-7 Years
	Install	5-7 Years	
Landform	3.3	2.0	Moderate
Vegetation	2.6	1.5	Minimal/Moderate
Land Use	3.0	2.4	Moderate/Appreciable
Water	NA	NA	NA
Sky	2.0	1.6	Minimal/Moderate
Viewer Activity	3.3	1.9	Moderate
AVERAGE	2.8	1.9	Moderate

² 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:

Component	Install		Component	Mitigation	
	Score			Score	
	Low	High		Low	High
Landform	3	4	Landform	1.5	2.5
Vegetation	2	3	Vegetation	1	2
Land Use	2.5	4	Land Use	1	4
Water	NA	NA	Water	NA	NA
Sky	1	2.5	Sky	0.5	3
Viewer Activity	3	4	Viewer Activity	1	3

South Ripley Solar Project

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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: 24
County: Chautauqua
Town: Ripley
Location: NYS Route 76
Latitude, Longitude:
 42.18453°N, 79.65860°W
Direction of View: Southwest
Distance to Nearest PV Panel in View:
 671 feet
Distance Zone: Near-foreground

Visual Resources

Landscape Type: Rural Residential/
 Agricultural
User Group: Local Residents, Through-
 Travelers
VSR: NYS Route 76, Concord Grape Belt
 State Heritage Area

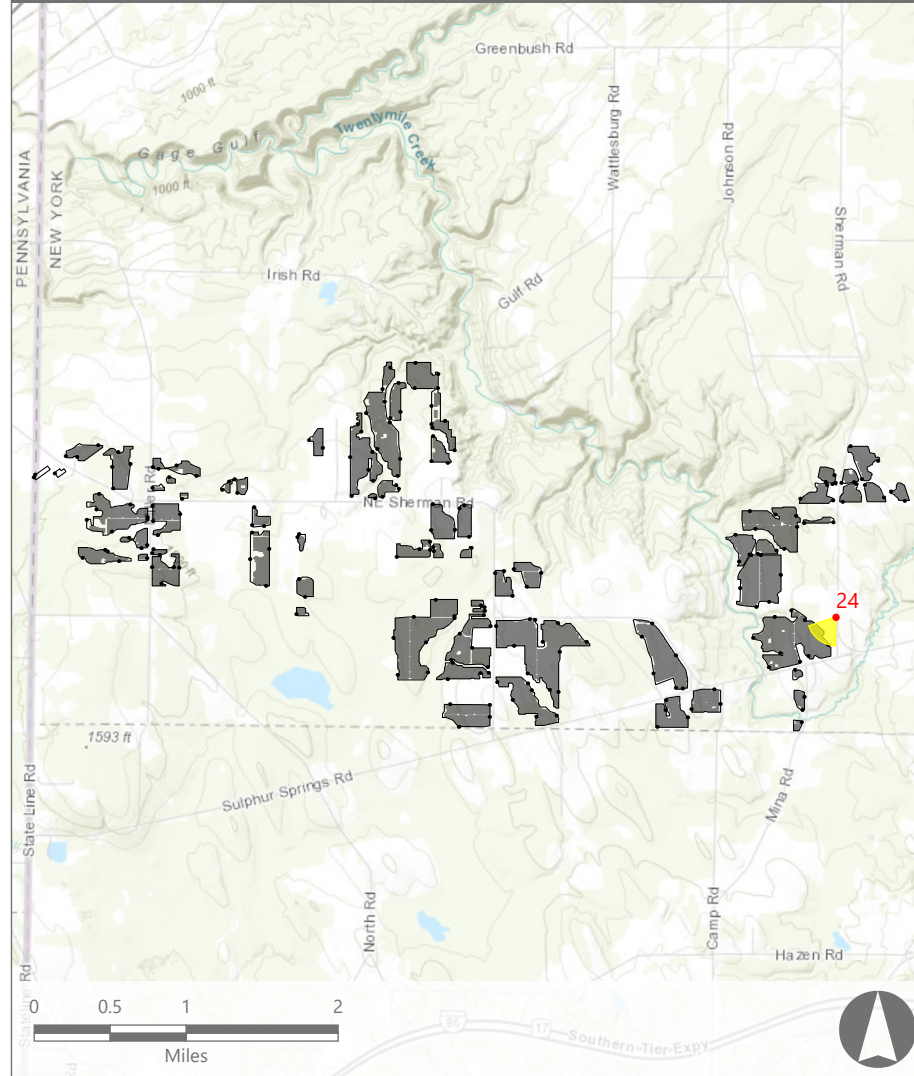
Photograph Information

Date Taken: August 06, 2020
Time: 1:37 PM
Camera: Nikon D7100
Resolution: 24.1 Megapixels
Lens Focal Length: 35 mm
Camera Elevation: 1,536 feet
Field of View: 71°

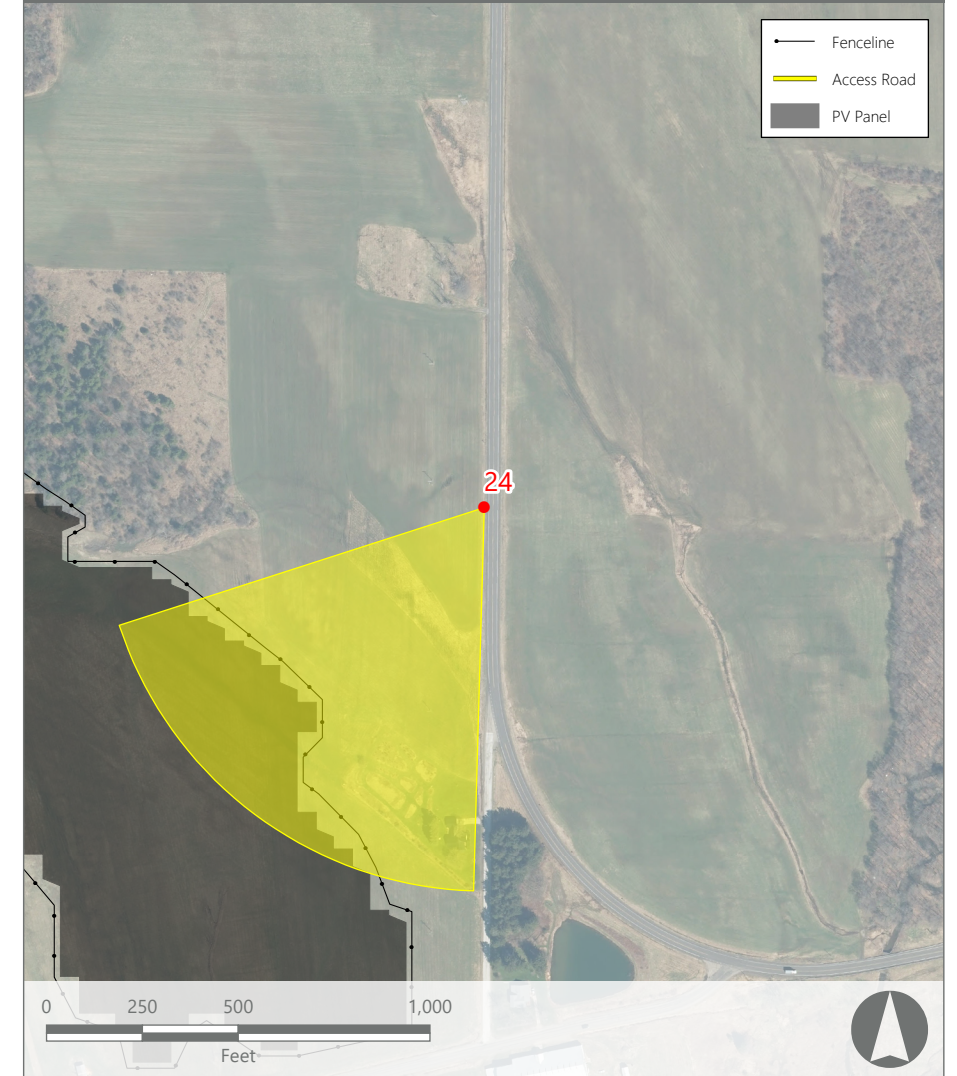
Project Information

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

Context Map



Location Map



Context Photo: View to the South



Simulation Photo: View to the South-southwest



Simulation Photo: View to the Southwest



Context Photo: View to the West

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Existing View



Existing Condition

Viewpoint 24 is located on State Route 76 in the Town of Ripley, on the east side of the Facility Site, just north of the intersection with Meeder Road. It is approximately 724 feet from the nearest proposed PV panel array. The existing view to south-southwest from this location features a broad open hay field that extends from the immediate foreground across gently undulating topography to a tree line in the background. The flat field is traversed by a line of overhead utility poles which create strong vertical lines in the landscape and draw the viewer’s eye to the middle ground. The background tree line defines the edge of a largely forested landscape on rolling terrain that rises to a ridgeline that defines the visible horizon. The forested background is broken by occasional glimpses of open fields and rooftops. A centrally located barn at the back edge of the field, along with a house to the far left, are man-made features that serve as focal points in this view, although perspective runs to the background high point between these two structures. The view of green fields and open sky feels expansive, with a strong rural/agricultural character and moderate scenic quality.

Proposed View



Proposed View

With the proposed Facility in place a large array of PV panels can be seen traversing the back half of the open field. The panels reduce the perceived size/depth of the field, and their dark color, angular form, and hard line contrast with the color and texture of the existing vegetation. However, their distance from the viewer makes the panels feel less intrusive, and the intervening field maintains an open feel and agricultural character. The panels’ horizontal line presents minimal contrast with the level topography, and the dark colored forest vegetation in the background helps lessen their color contrast. The sky overhead and background forests are largely unaffected by the presence of the panels, and the existing buildings are still present in the view. Perceived change in land use and scenic quality is minor.

View with Mitigation



Landscape Mitigation

With proposed perimeter plantings in place, and following five to seven years of growth, the panels are only partially screened, and the hard line of their top edge is still visible. However, their color, texture, and line contrast with the existing landscape has been reduced. Although the plantings feel somewhat unnatural due to their organized/linear arrangement and the inclusion of conifers, with additional growth they will blend with the forest vegetation in the background and effectively screen the Facility.

Viewpoint Sensitivity¹:

Scenic Quality:

- Low
- Moderate
- High

Viewer Exposure:

- Continuous
- Repeated/Regular
- Occasional/Brief
- Rare

¹ 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 by the review panel.

Contrast Rating Scores²:

Component	Score		Contrast Rating 5-7 Years
	Install	5-7 Years	
Landform	1.4	1.4	Minimal/Moderate
Vegetation	1.0	0.8	Minimal
Land Use	1.9	1.9	Moderate
Water	NA	NA	NA
Sky	0.8	0.6	Insignificant/Minimal
Viewer Activity	1.6	1.6	Minimal/Moderate
AVERAGE	1.3	1.3	Minimal/Moderate

² 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:

Component	Install		Component	Mitigation	
	Score			Score	
	Low	High		Low	High
Landform	1	2	Landform	1	2
Vegetation	0	2	Vegetation	0	2
Land Use	1.5	3	Land Use	1.5	3
Water	NA	NA	Water	NA	NA
Sky	0	2	Sky	0	1.5
Viewer Activity	1	2	Viewer Activity	1	2

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Simulation



Simulation with Mitigation 5-7 Year Post Install



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

