

Attachment D. Visual Simulations

Viewpoint Information

Viewpoint ID: 63S
County: Chautauqua
Town: Ripley
Location: County Route 6
Latitude, Longitude:
42.19913°N, 79.75999°W
Direction of View: South
Distance to Nearest Visible Project
Component: 433 feet
Distance Zone: Near-foreground

Visual Resources

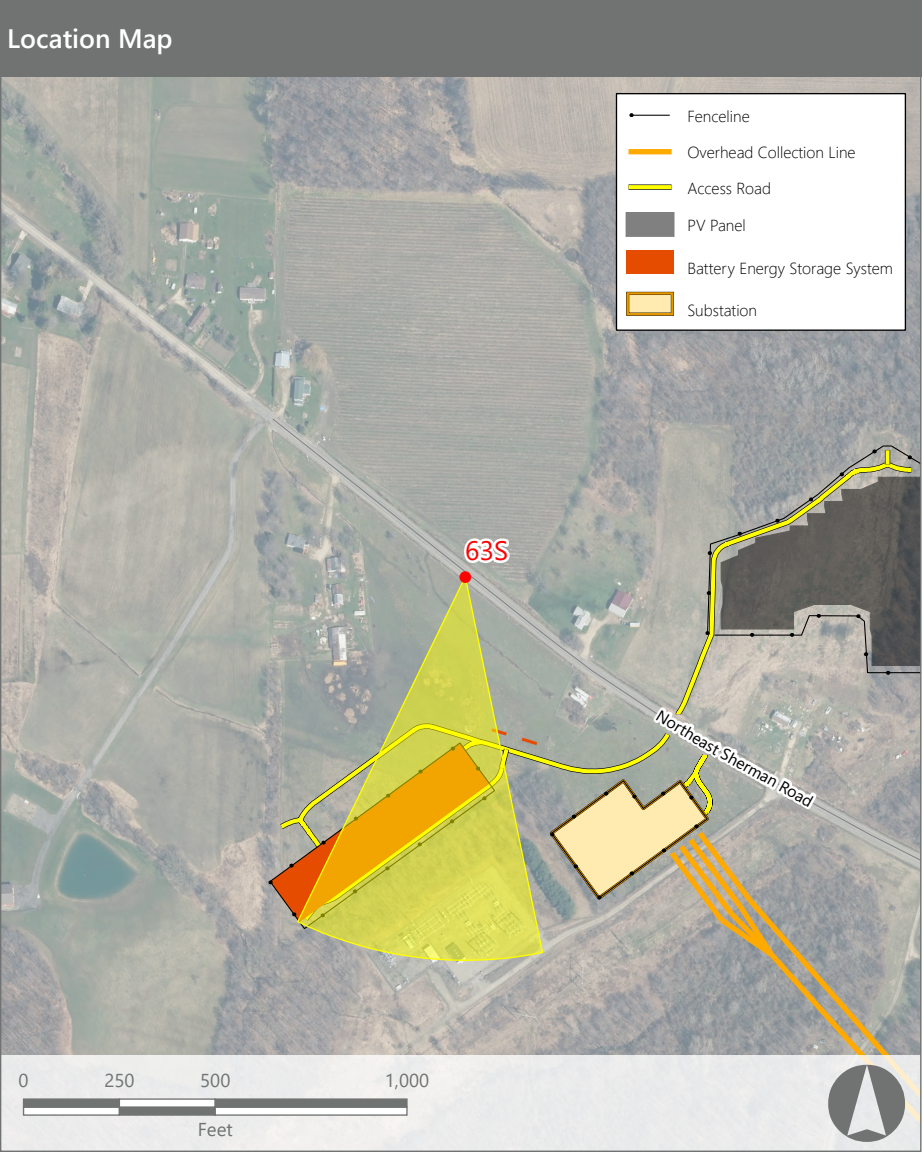
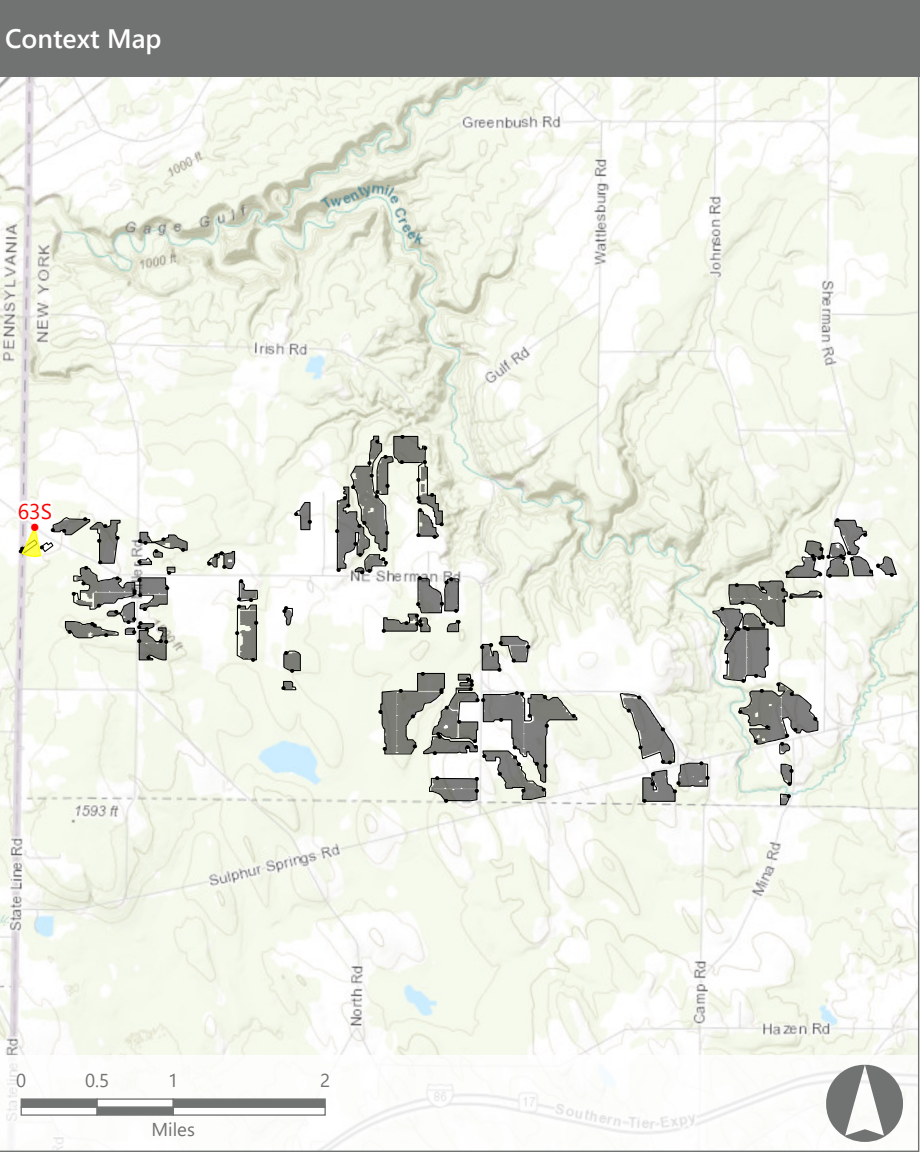
Landscape Type: Rural Residential/
Agricultural
User Group: Local Residents, Through-
Travelers
VSR: Concord Grape Belt State Heritage
Area

Photograph Information

Date Taken: March 12, 2021
Time: 5:19 PM
Camera: Nikon D7100
Resolution: 24.1 Megapixels
Lens Focal Length: 35 mm
Camera Elevation: 1,471 feet
Field of View: 38°

Project Information

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



Context Photo: View to the Southeast



Context Photo: View to the South-southeast



Simulation Photo: View to the South



Context Photo: View to the South-southwest

South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

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



Existing View



Proposed View



View with Mitigation



Existing Condition

Viewpoint 63S is just up the road (to the northwest) from Viewpoint 59 on County Route 6. This viewpoint is approximately 436 feet from the Facility’s proposed battery energy storage system. The existing view to the south from this location features a fenced pasture with patchy vegetation and uneven topography in the foreground, backed by a line of mature trees in the middle ground. Viewer attention is drawn to the back of the field where it meets the tree line. Portions of the existing Ripley Substation can be seen through the trees due to their leaf-off condition. Additional forest vegetation can be seen extending beyond the substation, but the middle ground trees essentially block views of more distant landscape features. This screening of the background will be complete during the growing season when the trees are in foliage. The view has relatively low scenic quality due to its enclosed character, lack of interesting focal points, the presence of existing utility infrastructure, and the rather ragged appearance of the foreground pasture.

Proposed View

With the proposed Facility in place, the energy storage structures appear as a series of low, light-colored rectangular boxes on the far side of the field. Due to their modest height, these structures do not significantly change the overall composition of the view. They present limited contrast with the existing vegetation, topography, and land use, are well below the skyline, and do not substantially screen the trees or substation in the background. However, the structures do present color and texture contrast with existing features of the landscape and become the new focus of this view. Although the new structures add to the industrial/utility character of the view, their low profile, set back from the road, and clean line, form, and texture reduce their dominance and visual clutter.

Landscape Mitigation

With proposed mitigation plantings in place, and following five to seven years of growth, the visual mass of the energy storage facility is substantially reduced. The plantings provide substantial (but not complete) screening, and blend with the forest vegetation in the background. This serves to integrate the proposed facility into a more wooded landscape, while maintaining the agricultural character of the field in the foreground. Although the presence of conifers in the plantings is not consistent with the existing forest vegetation, it enhances screening during the dormant season and will be less noticeable during the growing season.

Viewpoint 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 be the review panel.

Contrast Rating Scores²:

Component	Score		Contrast Rating 5-7 Years
	Install	5-7 Years	
Landform	1.8	1.4	Minimal/Moderate
Vegetation	1.4	0.9	Minimal
Land Use	1.9	1.3	Minimal/Moderate
Water	NA	NA	NA
Sky	1.0	0.6	Insignificant/Minimal
Viewer Activity	2.0	1.1	Minimal
AVERAGE	1.6	1.1	Minimal

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:

Install			Mitigation		
Component	Score		Component	Score	
	Low	High		Low	High
Landform	1	2.5	Landform	0.5	2.5
Vegetation	1	2.5	Vegetation	0.5	1.5
Land Use	1	2.5	Land Use	0.5	2.5
Water	NA	NA	Water	NA	NA
Sky	0	2	Sky	0	1
Viewer Activity	1.5	2.5	Viewer Activity	0.5	1.5

Existing Conditions



Simulation



Simulation with Mitigation 5-7 Year Post Install



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

