

South Ripley Solar Project Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County,

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South Ripley Solar Project Town of Ripley, Chautauqua Cour Section 94-c Application. Matter No. 21-00750

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Attachment D. Visual Simulations

Viewpoint Information

Viewpoint ID: 16 County: Chautauqua Town: Ripley **Location:** County Route 6 Latitude, Longitude: 42.19504°N, 79.70556°W Direction of View: South-Southwest Viewing Distance: 179 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, South Ripley Methodist Church

Photograph Information

Date Taken: August 06, 2020 **Time:** 12:41 PM

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



Miles





Context Map



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Existing View



Proposed View



View with Mitigation



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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

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.

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:

 Low Moderate High Viewer Exposure: 	Sceni
ModerateHighViewer Exposure:	
 High Viewer Exposure: 	X
Viewer Exposure:	
 Continuous Repeated/Regular Occasional/Brief Rare 	Viewe ⊠ ⊠ ⊠

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:

	Score		Contract Dating	
Component	Install	5-7 Years	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:

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

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



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