

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
Viewing Distance: 84 feet
Distance Zone: Near-foreground

Visual Resources

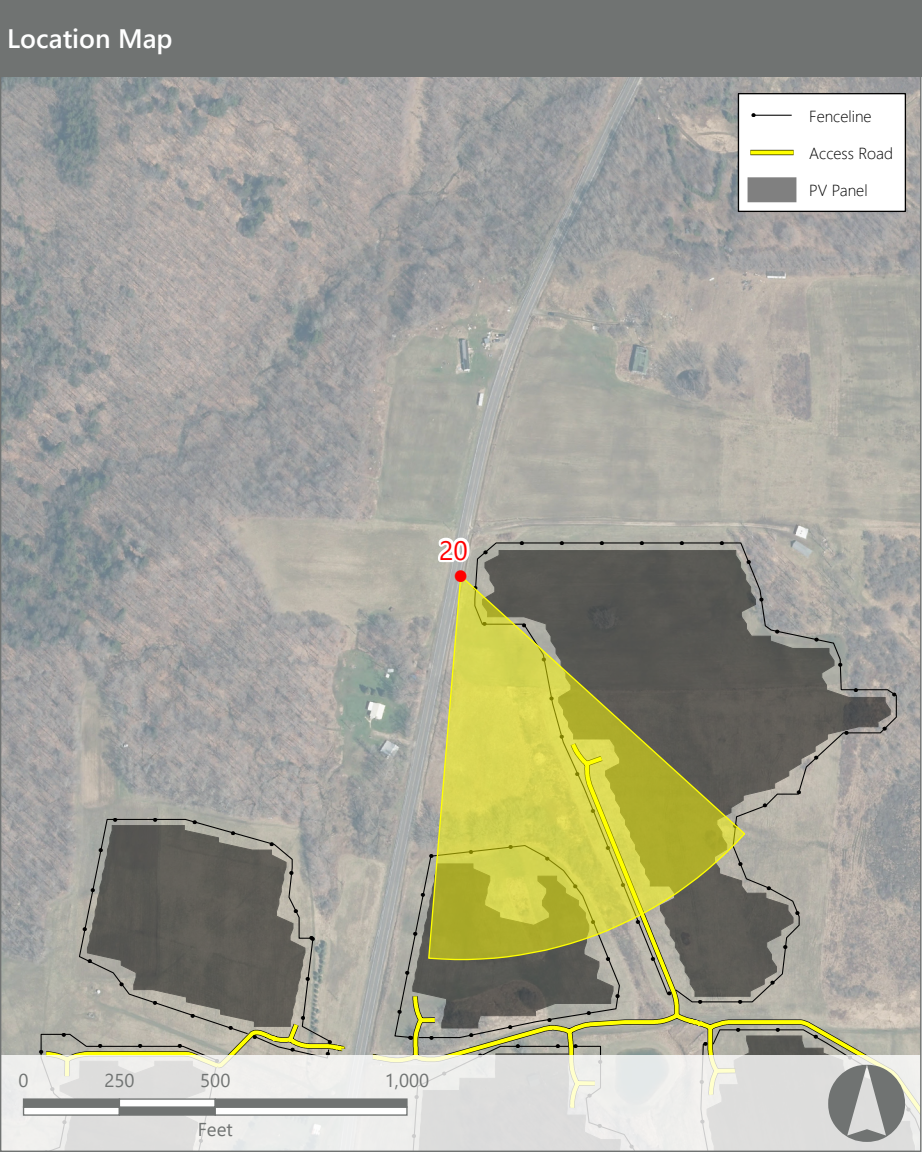
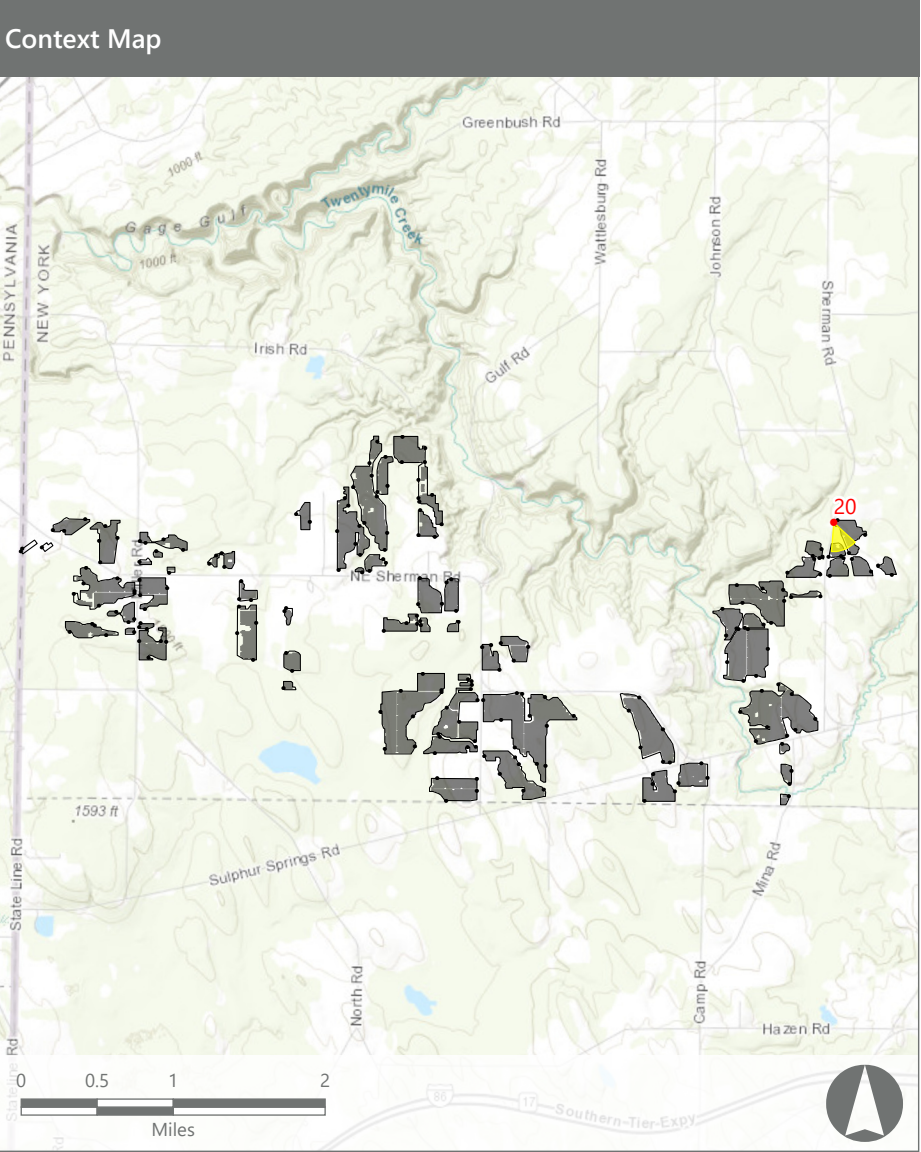
Landscape Type: Rural Residential/
Agricultural
User Group: Local Residents, Through-
Travelers
VSR: NYS Route 76, Concord Grape Belt
State Heritage Area

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 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

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

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

Sheet 19 of 80



Existing View



Proposed View



View with Mitigation



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

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.

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 remaning 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 be 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:

Install			Mitigation		
Component	Score		Component	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

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 20, NYS Route 76 (Sherman Road) in the Town of Ripley - Simulation

Simulation with Mitigation 5-7 Year Post Install



South Ripley Solar Project

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Section 94-c Application. Matter No. 21-00750 | Viewpoint 20, NYS Route 76 in the Town of Ripley - Simulation with Mitigation 5-7 Year Post Install