

ounty, New York 21-00750 oua f Ripl Section 94-c C lown

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 Viewing Distance: 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

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











250

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Existing View



Proposed View



View with Mitigation



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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 expensive, with a strong rural/agricultural character and moderate scenic quality.

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.

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:

Scenie Sc	c Quality: Low Moderate High
Viewe	er 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:

	Score		Contract Dating	
Component	Install	5-7 Years	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:

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

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



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