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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: 40 County: Chautauqua Town: Ripley **Location:** County Route 6 Latitude, Longitude: 42.18278°N, 79.68067°W Direction of View: South Viewing Distance: 118 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: August 06, 2020 Time: 2:59 PM Camera: Nikon D7100 **Resolution:** 24.1 Megapixels

### Max Panel Height: 13 feet AGL Project Area: 3,382 acres









Context Map



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### **Existing View**



### **Proposed View**



### **View with Mitigation**



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### **Existing Condition**

Viewpoint 40 is located on County Route 6 in the Town of Ripley, approximately 109 feet from the nearest proposed PV panel array. This viewpoint occurs in the east-central portion of the Facility Site and is representative of open agricultural views available to local residents. The existing view to the south from this location features a brushy road shoulder and overhead utility line angling across the immediate foreground, backed by an open grassy field that rises to a high point in the middle ground. The roadside vegetation is the focal point in this view and other than the tops of a few trees, the high point of the field blocks views of more distant landscape features. Only on the left side of the view does a wooded hill in the background rise above the field, providing a secondary focal point. Other than the overhead utility lines, the view lacks man-made features, and the rising topography of the open field creates a strong skyline geometry. The rolling topography, vegetative variability, and mix of foreground, middle ground, and background features result in moderate to high visual quality.

### **Proposed View**

With the proposed Facility in place, the adjacent open field is now occupied by PV panels. Due to the proximity of the array, the panels are the dominant focal point of the view. Details of the racking system and perimeter fencing are visible, and the closest panels block views of those that are further from the viewer. The presence of the panels flattens the perceived topography and almost completely blocks views of the skyline and all middle ground and background landscape features. Although the remaining roadside vegetation provides some limited screening of the array, the hard line of the top of the panels is clearly visible against the sky. The Facility alters the scenic quality and agricultural character of the existing view, changing the perceived land use to solar generation.

### Landscape Mitigation

Proposed perimeter plantings enhance the screening provided by the existing roadside vegetation and help to break up the hard line of the array. However, significant portions of the Facility are still visible. Additional planting density would enhance the screening/softening function of the mitigation plantings, but would also further enclose the view in this location.

### Viewpoint Sensitivity<sup>1</sup>:

Scenic Quality:				
	Low			
X	Moderate			
	High			
Viewer Exposure:				
	Continuous			
X	Repeated/Regular			
X	Occasional/Brief			
	Rare			

<sup>1</sup> 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 Scores<sup>2</sup>:

	Score		Contract Dating	
Component	Install	5-7 Years	5-7 Years	
Landform	3.1	2.9	Appreciable	
Vegetation	2.4	2.1	Moderate	
Land Use	3.3	2.9	Appreciable	
Water	NA	NA	NA	
Sky	2.9	2.8	Appreciable	
Viewer Activity	3.3	2.9	Appreciable	
AVERAGE	3.0	2.7	Moderate/Appreciable	

 $^2$  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	4			
Vegetation	2	3			
Land Use	2.5	4			
Water	NA	NA			
Sky	1.5	4			
Viewer Activity	2.5	4			

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



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