

Simulation



**South Ripley Solar Project**

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

**Section 94-c Application. Matter No. 21-00750** | Viewpoint 40, County Route 6 in the Town of Ripley - Simulation



Simulation with Mitigation 5-7 Year Post Install





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



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Attachment D. Visual Simulations

Viewpoint Information

**Viewpoint ID:** 44  
**County:** Chautauqua  
**Town:** Ripley  
**Location:** Sinden Road  
**Latitude, Longitude:**  
42.18482°N, 79.70245°W  
**Direction of View:** West-Southwest  
**Viewing Distance:** 344 feet  
**Distance Zone:** Near-foreground

Visual Resources

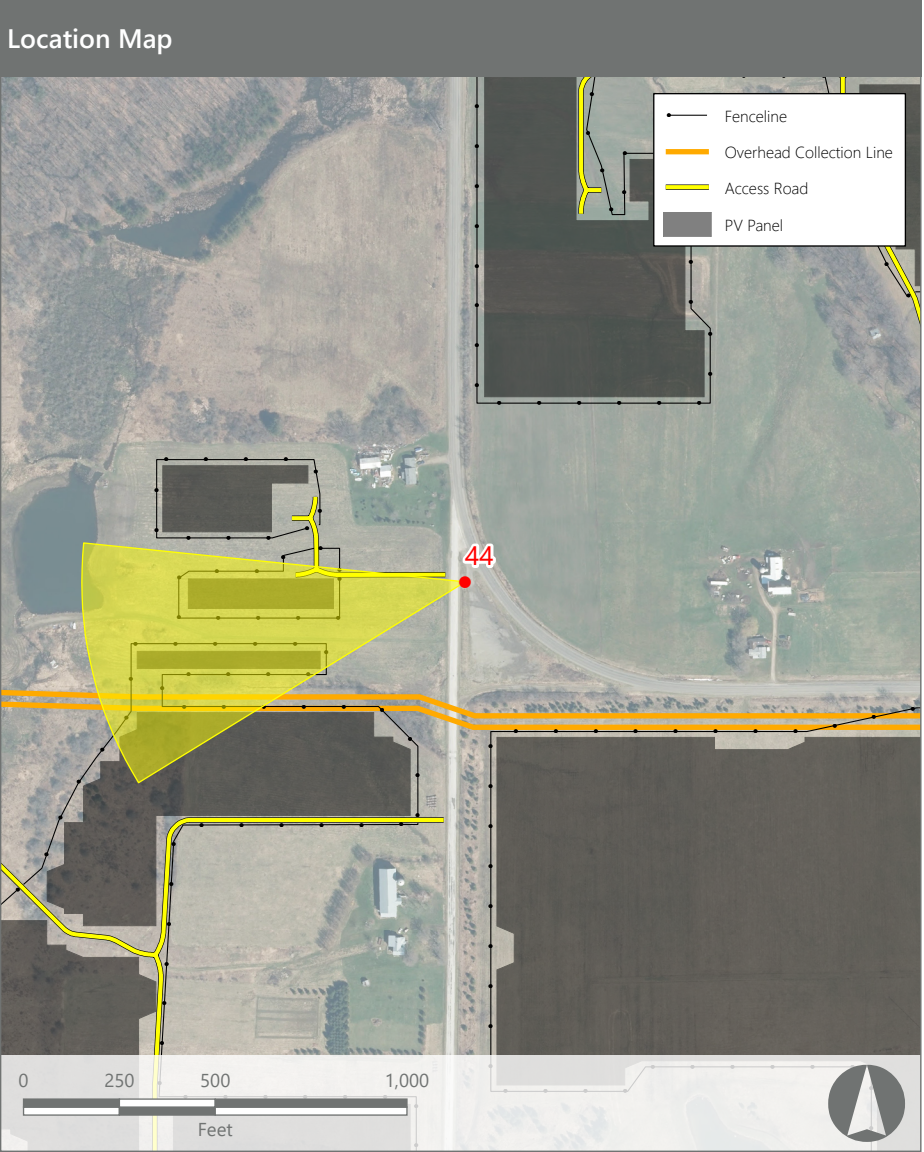
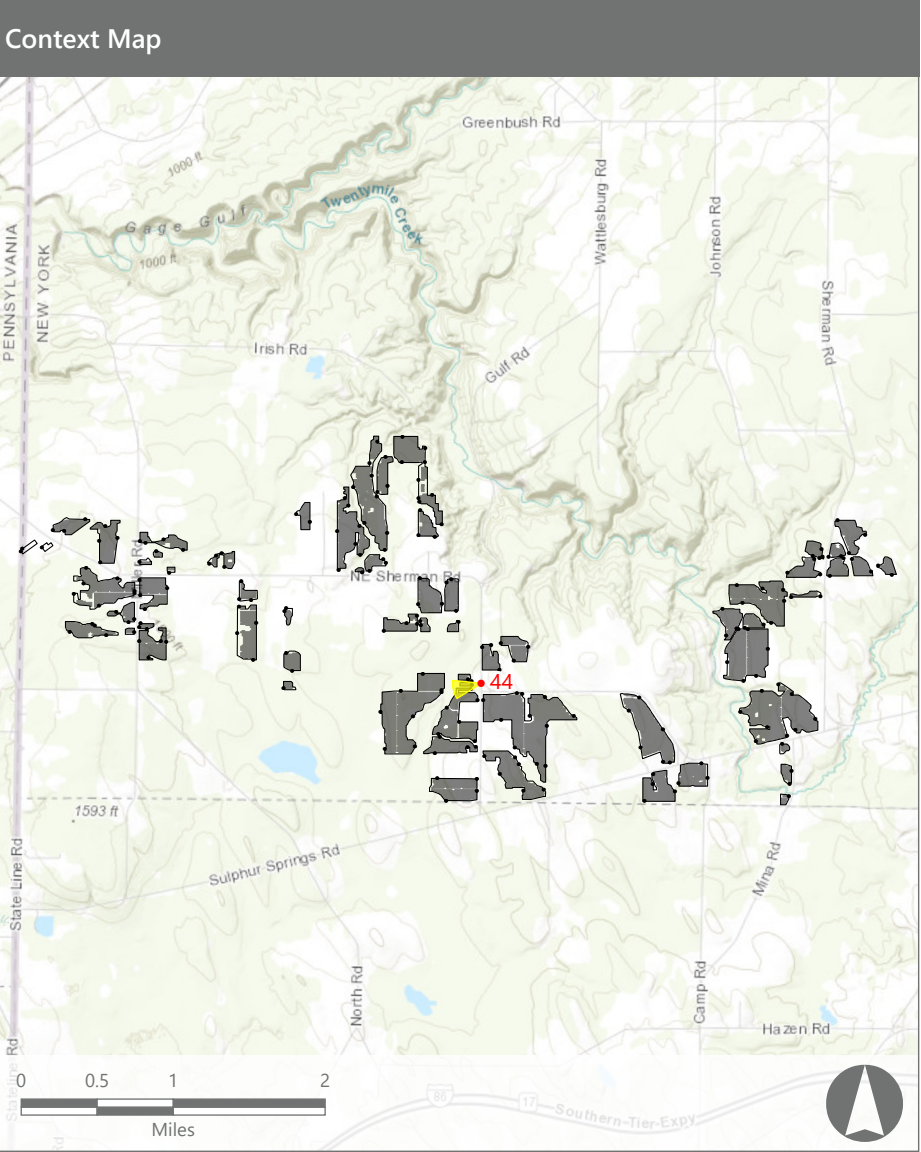
**Landscape Type:** Rural Residential/  
Agricultural  
**User Group:** Local Residents  
**VSR:** Concord Grape Belt State Heritage  
Area

Photograph Information

**Date Taken:** August 06, 2020  
**Time:** 3:14 PM  
**Camera:** Nikon D7100  
**Resolution:** 24.1 Megapixels  
**Lens Focal Length:** 34 mm  
**Camera Elevation:** 1,531 feet  
**Field of View:** 37°

Project Information

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





Existing View



Proposed View



View with Mitigation



Existing Condition

Viewpoint 44 is located on Sinden Road in the Town of Ripley, approximately 332 feet from the nearest proposed PV panel array. This viewpoint occurs in the central portion of the Facility Site and is representative of views available to residents from their homes and local roads. The existing view to the west from this location features the road edge in the immediate foreground backed by open pastureland and hayfields that descend into a slight valley before rising to meet a dense band of trees on a hilltop in the background. The valley in the middle ground includes a small pond, grazing livestock, a tractor, and round hay bales in the field, which activate the view and serve as focal points.. The middle ground transitions from the open field and pond, to successional vegetation, to mature trees as one scans the view from right to left. The hillside on the far side of the valley is a mix of bright green fields and dark green groupings of trees that create dense orthogonal edges. Roadside utility lines span the mostly blue sky overhead and reinforce the strong horizontal lines in the landscape. This pastoral view has a strong rural/agricultural character, and the combination of rolling topography, variability in color and form of the vegetation, and interesting focal points (including open water), result in moderate to high scenic quality.

Proposed View

With the proposed Facility in place, the fields on both sides of the central valley are now fully occupied by rows of PV panels. Other visible Facility components include access roads, overhead collection lines, and the corner of a temporary construction lay down area. The repetitive rows of panels now dominate the view and are the new focal point. Although the panels’ set back from the road, and remaining open land between the arrays, maintains some open space, the agricultural character and scenic quality of the view have been substantially altered. The color, line, and texture of the panel arrays present strong contrast with the existing landform and vegetation. This effect is amplified by the rising landform that accentuates Facility visibility. Although views to the background are still available, the land use and character of the view are completely changed.

Landscape Mitigation

Proposed mitigation plantings along the roadway soften the line and color contrast of the nearest panels and fencing and more distant panels on the left side of the view. However, more distant panels on the right of the view continue to draw viewer attention. Additional planting density to the right 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

☒ Moderate

☐ High

Viewer Exposure:

☐ Continuous

☒ Repeated/Regular

☐ 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>:

Component	Score		Contrast Rating 5-7 Years
	Install	5-7 Years	
Landform	2.9	2.1	Moderate
Vegetation	3.3	1.8	Moderate
Land Use	3.9	2.8	Appreciable
Water	2.1	1.4	Minimal/Moderate
Sky	1.5	1.5	Minimal/Moderate
Viewer Activity	3.6	2.4	Moderate/Appreciable
AVERAGE	2.9	2.0	Moderate

<sup>2</sup> 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	2	4	Landform	1	3
Vegetation	2	4	Vegetation	1	2
Land Use	3.5	4	Land Use	2	4
Water	0.5	4	Water	0.5	2.5
Sky	0	3.5	Sky	1	1.5
Viewer Activity	3	4	Viewer Activity	2	3



Existing Conditions



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