

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 44, Sinden Road in the Town of Ripley - 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: 56
County: Chautauqua
Town: Ripley
Location: County Route 6
Latitude, Longitude:
42.19567°N, 79.75163°W
Direction of View: East-Northeast
Viewing Distance: 139 feet
Distance Zone: Near-foreground

Visual Resources

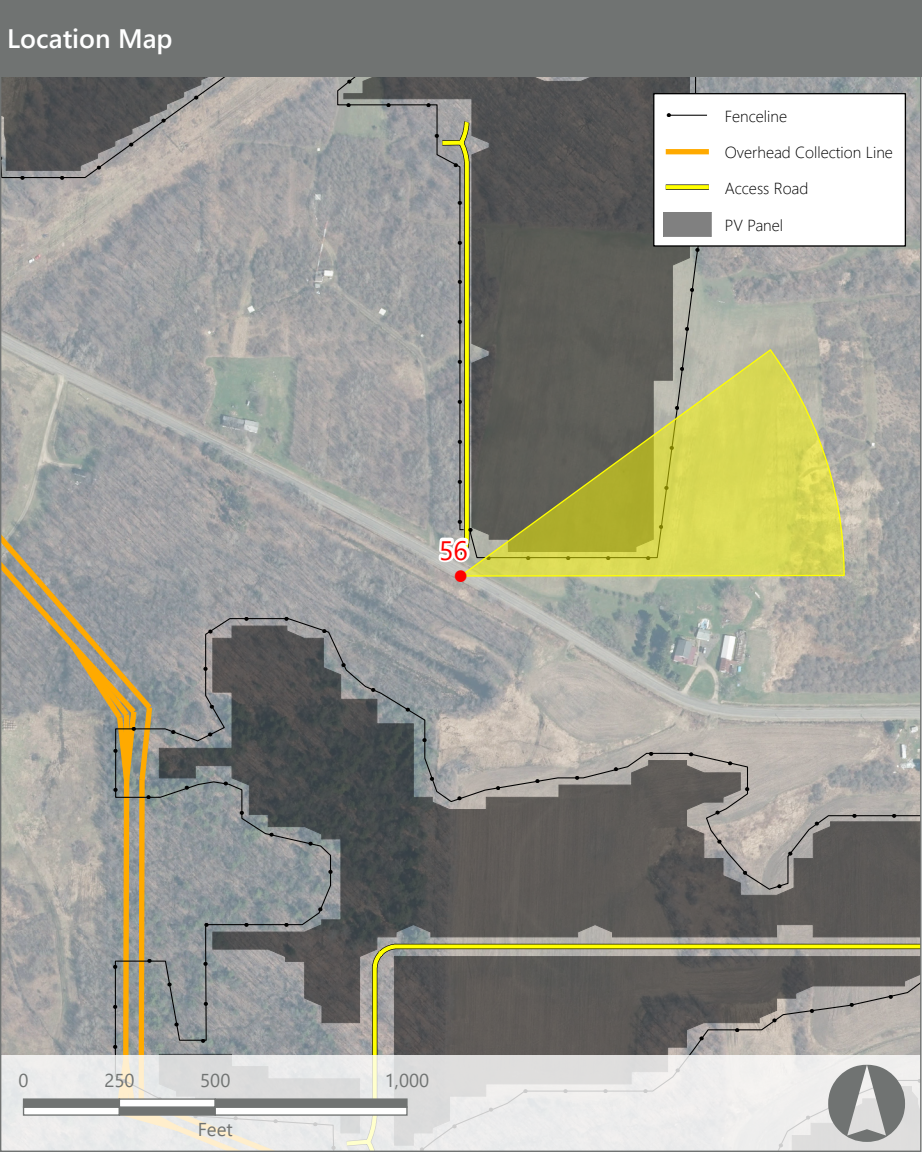
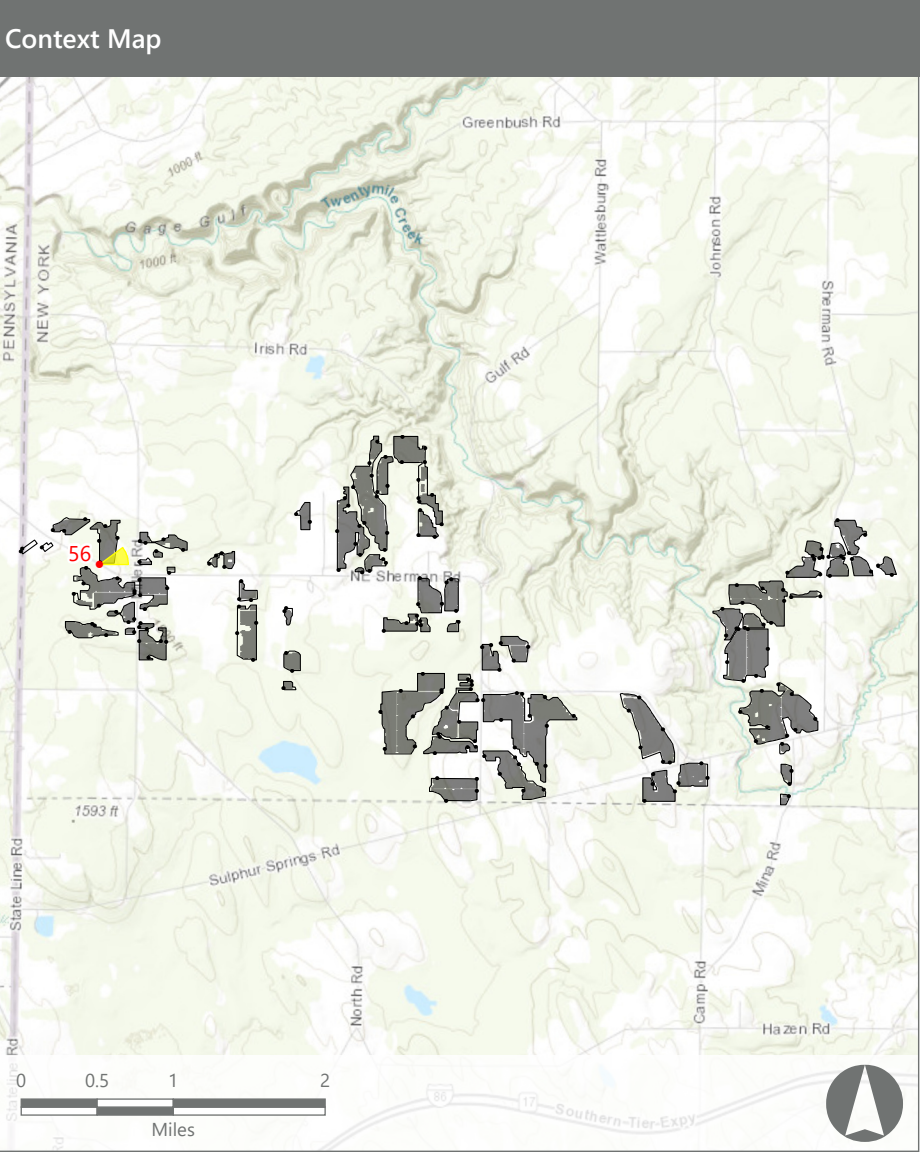
Landscape Type: Forest
User Group: Local Residents, Through-Travelers
VSR: Concord Grape Belt State Heritage Area

Photograph Information

Date Taken: March 12, 2021
Time: 5:01 PM
Camera: Nikon D7100
Resolution: 24.1 Megapixels
Lens Focal Length: 35 mm
Camera Elevation: 1,538 feet
Field of View: 36°

Project Information

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



Context Photo: View to the North



Simulation Photo: View to the East-Northeast



Context Photo: View to the East



Context Photo: View to the East-Southeast

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Existing View



Proposed View



View with Mitigation



Existing Condition

Viewpoint 56 is on County Route 6 in the Town of Ripley, approximately 139 feet from the nearest proposed PV panel array. This viewpoint is located on the west side of the Facility Site within the Forest LSZ (where it borders an open field in the Rural Residential/Agricultural LSZ). The view to the northeast from this location looks across an elevated open field in the foreground that descends out of sight in the middle ground. Beyond the field, a large expanse of gently rolling contiguous forest extends to a level horizon in the distant background. This location offers expansive, long-distance views, but as shown in the context photos, the field is surrounded by forest on all sides. A small body of water is visible among the background forest vegetation (on the right), along with widely scattered man-made structures, including utility poles, buildings, and a distant communication tower. The view is characterized by a series of horizontal bands of vegetation that differ in their color, texture, and distance from the viewer. However, it lacks interesting focal points or topographic variability, which result in moderate visual quality.

Proposed View

With the proposed Facility in place, a significant portion of the open field in the foreground is now occupied by solar panels. Because the front side of the panels are visible in this view, they appear gray in color rather than black, which reduces their contrast with the sky and vegetation. Where the panels are closest to the viewer, on the left side, they extend into the sky and block views of the skyline and background landscape. The panels angle away from the viewer from left to right and follow the topography down slope. This decreases their screening effect and maintains open views to the background. The proximity of the panels encloses the view and reduces the feeling of open space. The view is shortened, and the layering of contrasting vegetation types is lost. The panels change the character of the view from agricultural to solar generation.

Landscape Mitigation

Because of their proximity to the viewer, mitigation plantings along the roadside are effective in screening portions of the PV panel array. However, they also serve to block the remaining background view and thus further enclose this viewpoint and reduce the sense of openness. Although foreground panels are still visible, the plantings do serve to break up the hard lines and perceived size of the panel array.

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	3.0	3.1	Appreciable
Vegetation	2.5	1.5	Minimal/Moderate
Land Use	3.3	2.9	Appreciable
Water	NA	NA	NA
Sky	2.9	2.8	Appreciable
Viewer Activity	3.5	3.3	Appreciable/Strong
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			Mitigation		
Component	Score		Component	Score	
	Low	High		Low	High
Landform	2	3.5	Landform	2	4
Vegetation	1	3	Vegetation	0	3
Land Use	2.5	4	Land Use	2	4
Water	NA	NA	Water	NA	NA
Sky	2	4	Sky	1.5	4
Viewer Activity	3	4	Viewer Activity	2.5	4

Existing Conditions



Simulation



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