

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





Attachment D. Visual Simulations

Viewpoint Information

**Viewpoint ID:** 59  
**County:** Chautauqua  
**Town:** Ripley  
**Location:** County Route 6  
**Latitude, Longitude:**  
42.19820°N, 79.75812°W  
**Direction of View:** South  
**Viewing Distance:** 177 feet  
**Distance Zone:** Near-foreground

Visual Resources

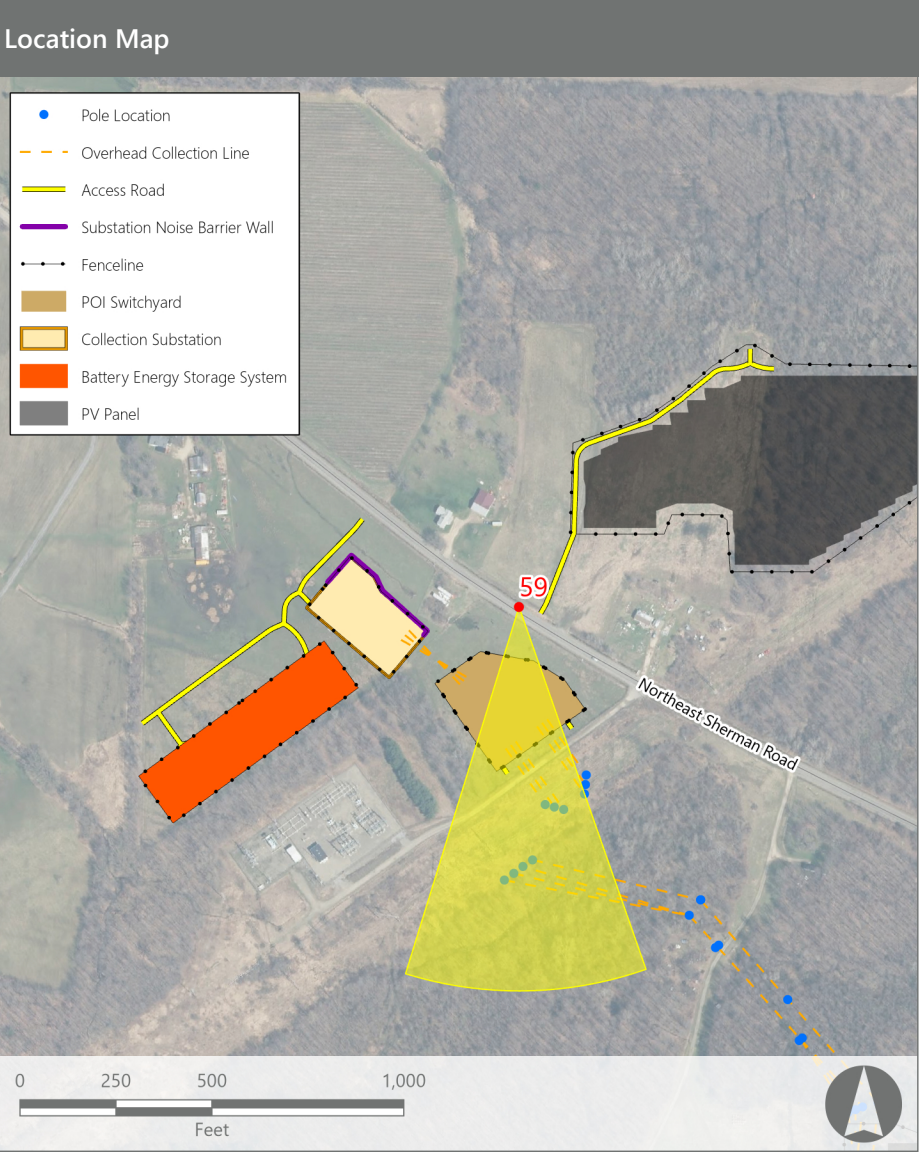
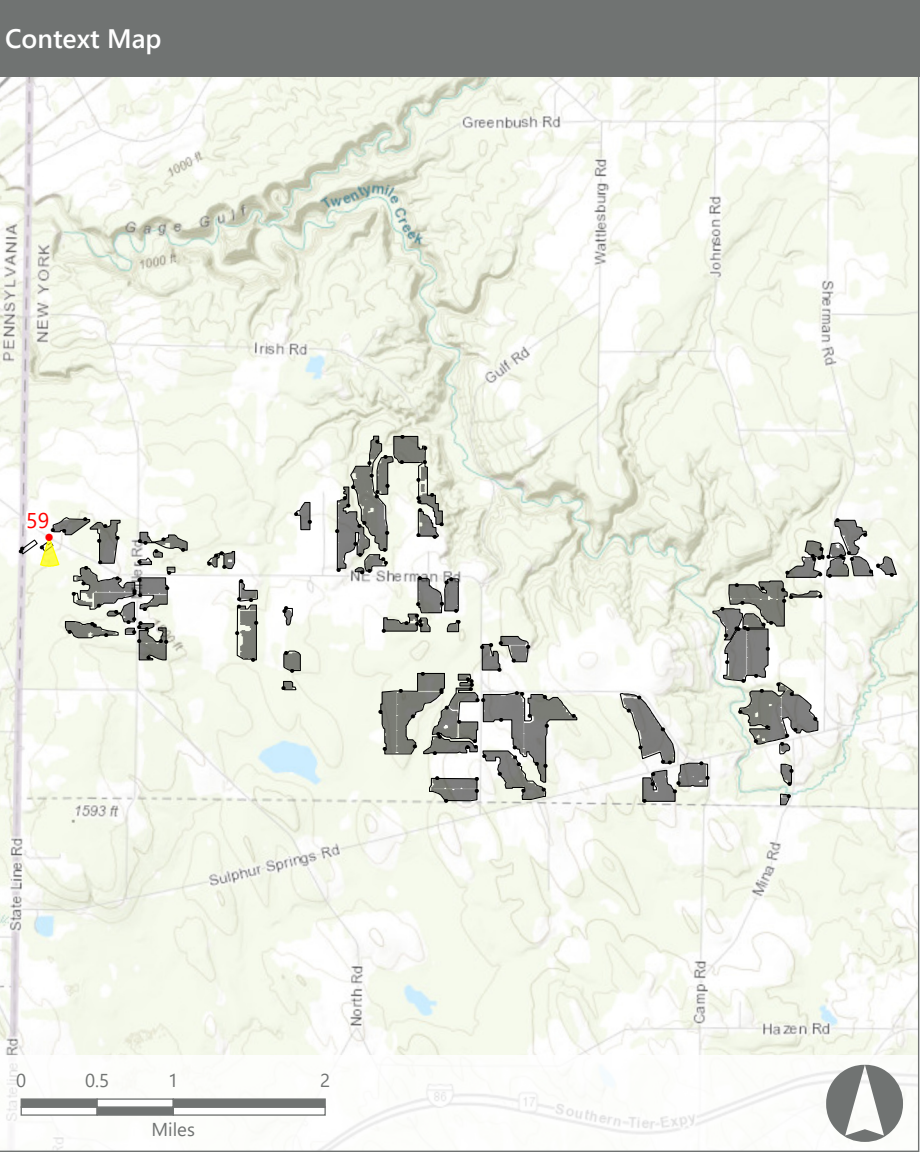
**Landscape Type:** Rural Residential/  
Agricultural  
**User Group:** Local Residents, Through-  
Travelers  
**VSR:** Concord Grape Belt State Heritage  
Area

Photograph Information

**Date Taken:** March 12, 2021  
**Time:** 5:12 PM  
**Camera:** Nikon D7100  
**Resolution:** 24.1 Megapixels  
**Lens Focal Length:** 35 mm  
**Camera Elevation:** 1,491 feet  
**Field of View:** 37°

Project Information

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



Context Photo: View to the Southeast



Simulation Photo: View to the South



Context Photo: View to the South-Southwest



Context Photo: View to the Southwest





Existing View



Proposed View



View with Mitigation



Existing Condition

Viewpoint 59 is located on County Route 6 in the Town of Ripley, on the far west side of the Facility Site, approximately 177 feet from the nearest visible component of the proposed point of interconnection (POI) switchyard. The existing view to the south from this location features a level, open pasture behind a barbed wire fence in the foreground. The pasture is backed by a fenced berm that defines the location of an access road to the existing Ripley Substation (outside the field of view behind an adjacent woodlot). Behind the fenced berm, a solid band of trees spans the view in the middle ground, and blocks views of more distant landscape features. An overhead transmission line also spans the view, running parallel with the middle ground tree line. A single H-frame structure on the transmission line interrupts the skyline and is a prominent focal point in the view. The enclosed character of the view, level topography, and presence of the transmission line result in relatively low scenic quality.

Proposed View

With the proposed Facility in place, the POI switchyard now occupies the foreground field. Due to its proximity to the viewer and lack of screening, details of the substation equipment and associated transmission infrastructure are clearly visible. The station appears large and visually complex. New man-made structures extend into the sky and present contrast with existing features of the landscape in line, color, texture, and form. The station adds significant visual clutter to the view and becomes the dominant character defining feature of the landscape. Because the station is semi-transparent, views of the forest and existing transmission line behind it are still available. However, the forest is clearly subordinate to the utility infrastructure that now dominates the view.

Landscape Mitigation

With proposed mitigation plantings in place, and following five to seven years of growth, the visual mass of the lower portion of the POI switchyard is softened, yet still strongly visible. The plantings provide some screening of components at the ground level while the high contrast upper portions are unscreened and continue to draw viewer attention. With additional growth, taller trees will begin to obscure the upper portions of the substation and blend with the background forest vegetation. Although the presence of conifers in the plantings is not consistent with the existing forest vegetation, it enhances screening during the dormant season and will be less noticeable during the growing season.

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 by the review panel.

Contrast Rating Scores<sup>2</sup>:

Component	Install	Contrast Rating 5-7 Years
Landform	3.3	Appreciable/Strong
Vegetation	3.1	Appreciable
Land Use	3.3	Appreciable/Strong
Water	NA	NA
Sky	3.5	Appreciable/Strong
Viewer Activity	3.3	Appreciable/Strong
AVERAGE	3.3	Appreciable/Strong

<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	2.5	4	Landform	2.5	3.5
Vegetation	2	4	Vegetation	2	3
Land Use	3	4	Land Use	2	3.5
Water	NA	NA	Water	NA	NA
Sky	3	4	Sky	2.5	4
Viewer Activity	2.5	4	Viewer Activity	2.5	4



Existing Conditions



**South Ripley Solar Project**

Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York

Section 94-c Application. Matter No. 21-00750 | Viewpoint 59, County Route 6 in the Town of Ripley - Existing Conditions



Simulation





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