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## **MEMO REGARDING VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PREPARATION**

**Date: May 22, 2023**

**To: Sage Ezell, Project Development Manager, CS Energy**

**Sent Via Email Only**

**Project: Hawthorn Solar**

**From: Stephanie Alessandrini, P.E.**

The following memo is intended to provide the justification for the methodology used in the preparation of the visual impact assessment entitled “Viewshed Analysis for Hawthorn Solar” dated March 21, 2023 (Hawthorn VIA). This memo is intended to supplement the previously provided Hawthorn VIA.

### **BACKGROUND**

This project includes the construction of a photovoltaic generating project in Hoosick, NY. The project will be located on lands within tax parcels 36.-1-11.1, 36.-1-9.2 and 36.-1-10.1, on the easterly and westerly side of Fords Road, north of Pine Valley Road. The PV system is expected to be 20 mW (AC) and the array is expected to occupy a footprint of ±123.00 acres with a total project area of ±135 Acres.

The project site is currently undeveloped with ongoing agricultural operations. The proposed solar array will be located in open areas on the parcels to the greatest extent practical.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The Hawthorn VIA was prepared as a desktop study using Google Earth. The parcel boundaries were uploaded to the Google Earth Program to define the maximum feasible limits of the proposed project. An overall area with a radius of two (2) miles was utilized to determine where the project may be potentially visible. Transections through the proposed array were selected based on areas of historic, local, or state interest within the two-mile radius analysis area of the proposed project site.

Additional transects were selected based on the locations of existing homes and non-forested, open areas where the panels may rise above the forest canopy. Heavily forested areas and areas blocked by on-site hills and knolls were not selected for analysis as it was determined there was a significantly low likelihood these areas would require additional screening.

### **CONCLUSION**

A planting plan was developed for the site which would provide screening for the areas which were determined to be visible based on the Hawthorn VIA.