



VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Date: June 9, 2023

Project: Wilson Hill Road Solar Project

BACKGROUND

The proposed project includes the construction of a 5 mW (AC) ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) system to be installed within tax parcel 26.-1-12.21/1 located in the Town of Hoosick, Rensselaer County, New York. The project will involve the construction of a single axis tracker style solar array, utilizing central inverter and transformer equipment, encompassing approximately 19.5 acres of the 99.52 +/- acre parcel. The project will be accessed by a gravel service road.

A Visual Impact Assessment was conducted that studies the proposed solar arrays from 7 different vantage points south and west of the project site along Wilson Hill Road and Fog Hill Road. The following provides a summary of the selected vantage points, methods used, and results of the visual assessment.

VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Figures 2 &3 of the Visual Impact Assessment illustrate that all but one (Receptor C) of the vantage points have no visual impact due to topography, vegetation, distance, or a combination thereof.

VISUAL ASSESSMENT VANTAGE POINTS

The vantage points include points along Wilson Hill Road heading east as well as a single point on Fog Hill Road. The project falls outside of any Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance (SASS) according to the statutory boundary designated by the Department of State. The visual assessment includes the following vantage points and viewshed locations:

1. Receptor A: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-14.1 looking northeast
2. Receptor B: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-14.1 looking northeast
3. Receptor C: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-12.221 looking northeast
4. Receptor D: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-12.221 looking north
5. Receptor E: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-13 looking northwest
6. Receptor F: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 27.-1-19 looking northwest
7. Receptor G: Fog Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-11.1 looking southeast

VISUAL ASSESSMENT METHODS

The proposed solar array is expected to include solar panels installed with a maximum height above existing grade of approximately 15 ft and extend over an area of approximately 19.5 acres. In addition to the solar panels themselves, the facility will include an 8 ft tall agricultural post and wire security fence. A Visual Impact Assessment utilizing NYS provided lidar and Google Earth was performed to assess the potential visibility of 7 receptor vantage points within the project study area. The project study area is defined by the surrounding roads as depicted in Figure 1.

VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT RESULTS

For each of the vantage points a summary of the potential for visual impact is provided below.

Receptor A: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-14.1 looking northeast

The viewshed analysis performed for Receptor A is shown on Figure 2. Section A shows, at 5 feet, the solar array is not visible from the receptor location. As shown in Section A, the existing vegetation, topography, and distance from the vantage point blocks potential visibility of the array.

Between points A and A' shown in Section A, the ground surface fluctuates from an elevation of approximately 750 ft at point A to 762 ft at point A' located along the northern property boundary. The edge of the array is located approximately 2,500 (0.47 mi) from the receptor location.

Receptor B: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-14.1 looking northeast

The viewshed analysis performed for Receptor B is shown on Figure 2. Section B shows, at 5 feet, the solar array is not visible from the receptor location. As shown in Section B, the existing vegetation, topography, and distance from the vantage point blocks potential visibility of the arrays.

Between points B and B' shown in Section B, the ground surface fluctuates from an elevation of approximately 710 ft at point B to 790 ft at point B' located along the northern property boundary. The edge of the array is located approximately 1,580 ft (0.29 mi) from the receptor location.

Receptor C: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-12.221 looking northeast

The viewshed analysis performed for Receptor C is shown on Figure 2. Section C shows, at 5 feet, the solar array is most likely visible from the receptor location due to a gap in the existing vegetation.

Between points C and C' shown in Section C, the ground surface fluctuates from an elevation of approximately 600 ft at point C to 800 ft at point C' located along the northern property boundary. The edge of the array is located approximately 920 ft (0.17 mi) from the receptor location.

Receptor D: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-12.221 looking north

The viewshed analysis performed for Receptor D is shown on Figure 2. Section D shows, at 5 feet, the solar array is not visible from the receptor location. As shown in Section D, the existing vegetation, topography, and distance from the vantage point blocks potential visibility of the arrays.

Between points D and D' shown in Section D, the ground surface fluctuates from an elevation of approximately 550 ft at point D to 745 ft at point D' located along the northern property boundary. The edge of the array is located approximately 1880 ft (0.35 mi) from the receptor location.

Receptor E: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-13 looking northwest

The viewshed analysis performed for Receptor E is shown on Figure 3. Section E shows, at 5 feet, the solar arrays are not visible from the receptor location. As shown in Section E, the existing vegetation, topography, and distance from the vantage point blocks potential visibility of the arrays.

Between points E and E' shown in Section E, the ground surface fluctuates from an elevation of approximately 535 ft at point E to 810 ft at point E' located along the north western property boundary. The edge of the array is located approximately 1,880 ft (0.35 mi) from the receptor location.

Receptor F: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-13 looking northwest

The viewshed analysis performed for Receptor F is shown on Figure 3. Section F shows, at 5 feet, the solar arrays are not visible from the receptor location. As shown in Section F, the existing vegetation, topography, and distance from the vantage point blocks potential visibility of the arrays.

Between points F and F' shown in Section F, the ground surface fluctuates from an elevation of approximately 510 ft at point F to 890 ft at point F' located along the western property boundary. The edge of the array is located approximately 2,640 ft (0.5 mi) from the receptor location.

Receptor G: Wilson Hill Road at tax parcel 26.-1-13 looking northwest

The viewshed analysis performed for Receptor G is shown on Figure 3. Section G shows, at 5 feet, the solar arrays are not visible from the receptor location. As shown in Section G, the existing vegetation, topography, and distance from the vantage point blocks potential visibility of the arrays.

Between points G and G' shown in Section G, the ground surface fluctuates from an elevation of approximately 750 ft at point G to 610 ft at point G' located along the north western property boundary. The edge of the array is located approximately 1,030 ft (0.19 mi) from the receptor location.

Conclusions

Based on the above assessment, it is concluded that all but one (Receptor C) of the vantage points will experience no visual impact due to topography, vegetation, distance, or a combination thereof.