# Attachment 1: Sources of Data

Somerset Solar Facility
Data Sources

| Data Source | Description | Link to Source |
|---|---|---|
| **National Park Service** | | |
| National Register of Historic Places (Geospatial Dataset – Code: 2210280) | The National Register geospatial dataset is intended to be a comprehensive inventory of all cultural resources that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, this dataset excludes all features deemed 'restricted' or 'sensitive', such as sensitive archaeological sites. This dataset provides feature geometry representations (point or polygon) and is intended to be supplemented with descriptive attributes maintained by other external database systems such as the National Register Information System which is included in this geodatabase. | https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2210280 |
| Administrative Boundaries of National Park System Units 9/30/2018 - National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) NPS National Parks Dataset | National Park Service unit boundaries. | https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2224545?Inv=True |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers Program: Map of NPS Wild and Scenic Rivers | On-line interactive map that provides detailed information about and links for individual wild and scenic rivers. | https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1912/index.htm |
| **New York State Department of State** | | |
| Title 19 | Identifies categories from which aesthetic resources of statewide significance can be derived and guidance for the evaluation of visual impacts of proposed projects. | https://ores.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/09/draft-regulations-chapter-xviii-title-19-subparts-900-1-900-5-900-7-900-14.pdf |
| **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation** | | |
| Policy DEP-00-2 | This policy provides guidance for the evaluation of visual impacts of proposed projects and outlines where scenic and aesthetic resources of statewide significance may be derived. | https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits_ej_operations_pdf/visualpolicydep002.pdf |
| **New York State Coastal Management Program** | | |
| Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance | Outlines NYS coastal areas, inland waterways, local waterfront revitalization program areas, groundwater management zones, designated agricultural districts, flood-prone areas, critical environmental areas designated pursuant to Article 8 of the ECL, and coastal erosion hazard areas that are considered scenic areas of statewide significance (SASS). | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=321 |
| **New York State Department of Transportation** | | |
| Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan Series (2005) | This plan details opportunities for economic development to promote tourism while preserving the byway's intrinsic resources and character. | https://www.dot.ny.gov/content/engineering/Scenic-Byways/Byways-repository/Great%20Lakes%20Seaway%20Trail_001-050.pdf |

Somerset Solar Facility
Data Sources

| Data Source | Description | Link to Source |
|---|---|---|
| **New York State GIS Clearinghouse GIS Data Sets** | | |
| DEC Lands and Campgrounds (*revised April 2018*) | Lands under the care, custody and control of DEC, including Wildlife Management areas, Unique Areas, State Forests, Forest Preserve, and DEC-operated campgrounds. | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=1114 |
| DEC Points of Interest (*revised April 2018*) | Point data locating and differentiating assets on state lands. Assets represented as point features are man-made items, which require periodic maintenance or inspection. Examples include custodial, asset, lean-to, parking lot, lean-to, pit privy, campsite, trail structure, parking, primitive site, fire tower, scenic vista, picnic site, day use area, and others. | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=1258 |
| DEC Roads and Trails (*revised April 2018*) | Line data locating and differentiating transportation corridors on state DEC lands. | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=1167 |
| New York State Historic Sites and Park Boundary (revised October 2018) | State Park and Historic Site Boundaries - Data include boundaries of state park and historic site facilities. Facility types include state parks, marine parks, boat launch sites, historic sites, historic parks, and park preserves. | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=430 |
| New York State Schools and School District Boundaries | New York State Education related datasets (public schools K-12) | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=1326 |
| New York State Heritage Areas | New York State Heritage Areas Data include boundaries of twenty Heritage Areas designated in Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation law, Section 33.03, from 1977 to the present. Designations include urban cultural parks, heritage areas, and heritage corridors. | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=1188 |
| Parks and Recreation | Shapefiles representing the boundaries of municipal parks, state parks and preservation lands, and Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy areas within Albany County. | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=1181 |
| Public Fishing Stream Parking Areas | Displays the locations public fishing stream parking areas in New York State. | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=1193 |
| Scenic Areas of Statewide Importance (*revised November 2014*) | Statutory boundary describing scenic areas designated by the Department of State. Designations completed for the Hudson River Valley only. | http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=321 |
| **Town of Somerset** | | |
| Town of Somerset Comprehensive Plan Update (2016) | This comprehensive plan provides guidance for development in a manner that encourages growth while minimizing impacts to natural resources and the town's rural character. | https://www.somersetny.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif3826/f/u83/final_plan_update_adopted_2016.pdf |
| Town of Somerset Local Waterfront Revitalization Program | This plan provides guidance for developing the Lake Ontario waterfront. | https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/08/town_of_somerset_lwrp_compressed.pdf |
| **U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration** | | |
| America Byways: New York | Online map of America's Byways within New York | https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/states/NY/maps |

Somerset Solar Facility
Data Sources

| Data Source | Description | Link to Source |
|---|---|---|
| **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** | | |
| National Hydrology | The NHD represents the nation's drainage networks and related features, including rivers, streams, canals, lakes, ponds, glaciers, coastlines, dams, and stream gages. | https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/national-hydrography |
| The National Map (TNM) Download (V1.0) | This site provides applications and web map services for accessing 'Topographic Information for the Nation'. This information includes topographic maps, and GIS data for elevation, hydrography, watersheds, geographic names; orthoimagery; governmental units/boundaries; transportation; and land cover. | https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic/<br><br>https://prd-tnm.s3.amazonaws.com/StagedProducts/Maps/USTopo/PDF/NY/NY_Kinderhook_20160817_TM_geo.pdf<br>https://prd-tnm.s3.amazonaws.com/StagedProducts/Maps/USTopo/PDF/NY/NY_Delmar_20160817_TM_geo.pdf<br>https://prd-tnm.s3.amazonaws.com/StagedProducts/Maps/USTopo/PDF/NY/NY_Alcove_20160817_TM_geo.pdf<br>https://prd-tnm.s3.amazonaws.com/StagedProducts/Maps/USTopo/PDF/NY/NY_Clarksville_20160817_TM_geo.pdf<br>https://prd-tnm.s3.amazonaws.com/StagedProducts/Maps/USTopo/PDF/NY/NY_Ravena_20160824_TM_geo.pdf<br>https://prd-tnm.s3.amazonaws.com/StagedProducts/Maps/USTopo/PDF/NY/NY_East_Chatham_20160817_TM_geo.pdf |

# Attachment 2: Scenic Resources within the Visual Study Area

Somerset Solar
Scenic Resources within Visual Study Area

| Visually Sensitive Resource ID | Selected Viewpoint Number: Keyed to Visual Simulations (VIA Attachment 7) | Line of Sight No. | Visually Sensitive Resource | Town | County | Approximate Distance from Facility[1] | Distance Zone[2] | Project Visibility[3] (Views possible ○ / Not Visible ●) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Properties Listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places** | | | | | | | | |
| 36, 37 | | LOS 1 | Thirty Mile Point Light House | Somerset | Niagara | 4.5 mi. | Background | ● |
| | | | **State Parks** | | | | | |
| 20 | | | Golden Hill State Park | N/A | Niagara | 4.5 mi. | Background | ● |
| | | | **Heritage Area System** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **State Forest Preserves** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **National Wildlife Refuges, State Game Refuges and State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)** | | | | | |
| 56 | | | Hartland Swamp Wildlife Management Area | North Hartland | Niagara | 3.5 mi | Middleground | ● |
| | | | **National Natural Landmarks** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **National Parks, Recreation Areas, Seashores, Forests** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **Rivers Designated as National or State Wild, Scenic, or Recreational** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **A site, area, lake, reservoir or highway designated or eligible for designation as scenic** | | | | | |
| 7, 8, 24, 25, 26, 27, 48, 57, 58, | Viewpoint 1B; Viewpoint 2A; Viewpoint 2B; Viewpoint 15 | | Great Lakes Seaway Trail Scenic Byway | Somerset, Olcott | Niagara | Adjacent | Foreground | ● |
| | | | **Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance (SASS)** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **State or federally-designated trail, or one proposed for designation** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **Adirondack Park Scenic Vistas** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **State Nature and Historic Preserve Areas** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **Palisades Park** | | | | | |
| | | | *None Identified within Visual Study Area* | | | | | |
| | | | **Other Resources of Statewide or Regional Significance** | | | | | |
| | | | Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor | Various | Niagara | 0 | Background | ● |

Somerset Solar
Scenic Resources within Visual Study Area

| Visually Sensitive Resource ID | Selected Viewpoint Number: Keyed to Visual Simulations (VIA Attachment 7) | Line of Sight No. | Visually Sensitive Resource | Town | County | Approximate Distance from Facility[1] | Distance Zone[2] | Project Visibility[3] (Views possible ○ / Not Visible ●) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Wetlands Reserve Program Conservation Easement | Town of Newfane | Niagara | 0.9 | Background | ● |
| 17 | | LOS 2 | Krull (Niagara County) Park | Hounsfield | Niagara | 4.5 | Middleground | ● |
| | | | Keg Creek Conservation Easement (NYSDEC) | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 0.5 | Middleground | ● |
| | | | **Locally Important Resources** | | | | | |
| 3, 4, 21, | Viewpoint 1A Viewpoint 1B | | Babcock House (Museum) | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 315 ft. | Foreground | ○ |
| 6, 22 | Viewpoint 15 | | Russell's U-Pick Blueberries | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 75 ft. | Foreground | ○ |
| | | LOS 3 | Smith House | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 945 ft. | Foreground | ● |
| 47 | | | The Winery at Marjim Manor | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 1.2 mi | Middleground | ● |
| - | | | Quaker Cemetery | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 0.7 mi | Middleground | ● |
| 5, 23 | | | Sawyer Cemetery | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 0.5 mi | Middleground | ● |
| 19 | | | Somerset Cemetery | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 1.4 mi | Middleground | ● |
| 9, 29 | | | West Somerset Cemetery | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 0.01 mi | Foreground | ○ |
| 18 | | | Somerset Town Park | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 1.4 mi | Middleground | ● |
| 32, 33 | | | Barker Bi-Centennial Park | Village of Barker | Niagara | 0.3 mi | Foreground | ○ |
| 34 | | | Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church | Village of Barker | Niagara | 1.6 mi | Middleground | ● |
| 10, 29 | | | West Somerset Baptist Church | West Somerset | Niagara | 0.9 mi | Middleground | ○ |
| 52 | | | Olcott Beach | Hamlet of Olcott | Niagara | 4.8 mi | Background | ● |
| 14 | | | Lower Lake Road | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 350 ft | Foreground | ● |
| 41 | | | Village of Barker (Quaker Rd at Main St) | Village of Barker | Niagara | 1.6 mi | Middleground | ● |
| 44 | | | Appleton (Railroad Ave) | Appleton | Niagara | 2 mi | Middleground | ● |
| 35, 46 | | | Barker Church | Village of Barker | Niagara | 0.6 | Middleground | ● |
| 49 | | | Ye Old Log Cabin at Krull County Park | Hamlet of Olcott | Niagara | 4.9 | Background | ● |
| 50 | | | Olcott Methodist Church | Hamlet of Olcott | Niagara | 4.8 mi | Background | ● |
| 51 | | | Olcott Beach Park | Hamlet of Olcott | Niagara | 4.9 mi | Background | ● |

Somerset Solar
Scenic Resources within Visual Study Area

| Visually Sensitive Resource ID | Selected Viewpoint Number: Keyed to Visual Simulations (VIA Attachment 7) | Line of Sight No. | Visually Sensitive Resource | Town | County | Approximate Distance from Facility[1] | Distance Zone[2] | Project Visibility[3] (Views possible ○ / (Not Visible) ●) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | | | Olcott Beach | Hamlet of Olcott | Niagara | 4.9 mi | Background | ● |
| 55 | | | Olcott Civil War Monument | Hamlet of Olcott | Niagara | 5 mi | Background | ● |
| 54 | | | Olcott Lighthouse | Hamlet of Olcott | Niagara | 5 mi | Background | ● |
| 59, 60 | | | Olcott Marina | Hamlet of Olcott | Niagara | 5 mi | Background | ● |
| 91 | | | Blackbird Ciderworks | Village of Barker | Niagara | 0.93 mi | Middleground | ● |
| | | | **Major Transportation Corridors** | | | | | |
| See above | | | NY-18/Lake Road (Great Lakes Seaway Trail Scenic Byway) | Varies | Niagara | 75 ft. | Foreground | |
| 32, 41, 90, | | | New York State Route 148/County Road 15/Quaker Road | Town of Hartland | Niagara | 1 mi. | Middleground | ● |
| 38, 39, 87, 88 | | | Hosmer Road | West Somerset | Niagara | 75 ft. | Foreground | ○ |
| 13, 30 | Viewpoint 3 | | Niagara County Route 108/Hartland Road | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 75 ft. | Foreground | ○ |
| | | | **Lakes and Rivers or Village** | | | | | |
| - | Viewpoint 16<br>Viewpoint 17<br>Viewpoint 18<br>Viewpoint 19 | | Lake Ontario | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 3.8 | Middleground | ○ |
| - | | | Fish Creek | Somerset | Niagara | 3.5 | Middleground | ● |
| - | | | Marsh Creek | Somerset | Niagara | 0.05 | Foreground | ○ |
| - | | | Keg Creek | Town of Newfane | Niagara | 0.03 | Foreground | ○ |
| - | | | Golden Hill Creek | Somerset | Niagara | 0.01 | Foreground | ○ |
| | | | **Schools and Colleges** | | | | | |
| - | | | Pratt Elementary School | Somerset | Niagara | 1.9 | Middleground | ● |
| 40 | | | Barker Junior/Senior High School | Barker | Niagara | 2.8 | Middleground | ● |
| | | | **Other/ Residential Areas or Lesser Roadways** | | | | | |
| 16, 28 | Viewpoint 5 | | Haight Road | Town of Somerset | Niagara | 0.01 | Foreground | ○ |

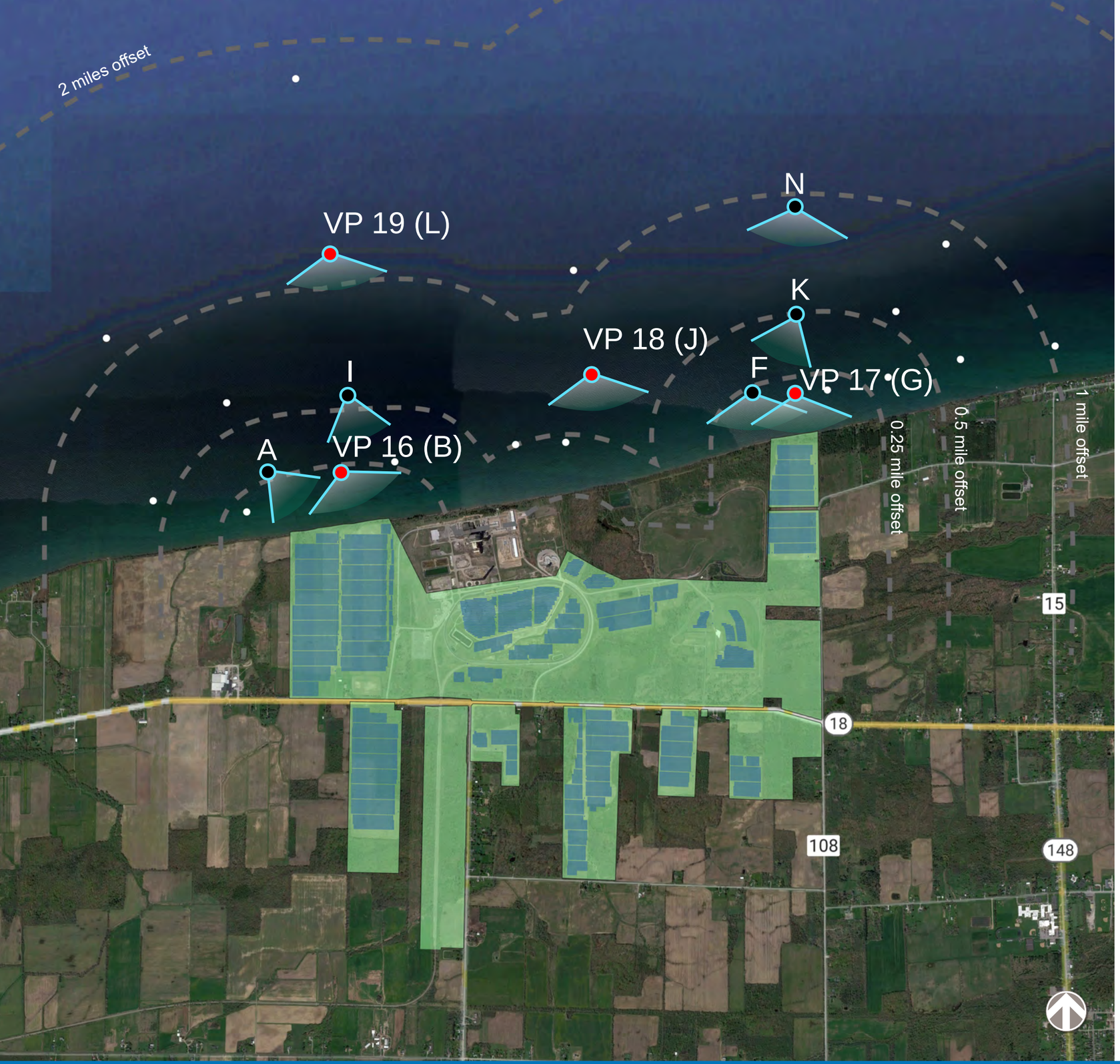
Notes:

1 – Distance for sites comprised of large areas (i.e., parks, SASS, historic districts) or linear sites (i.e., roadways, trails, river), were measured from the sites closest point to the Facility.

2 – Distance zones are defined as foreground (0 to 0.5 miles), middleground (0.5 to 4 miles), and background (greater than 4 miles).

3 – Project visibility is based off the results of the vegetated viewshed of the solar array and electrical equipment (i.e., substation and electrical infrastructure). Sites comprised of larger areas or linear sites noted as having “views possible” indicates that some portion of that site could potentially have views of some portion of Facility components. Potential visibility noted in the table is based on the viewshed analysis only not field conditions.

# Attachment 3:
# Site Photographs




# LAKE ONTARIO

## FIELD PHOTO LOG

# Viewpoint 64: LAKE LOC. B

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 64 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 8:29 AM |
| Photo Location: | On Boat in the Lake Ontario | Viewing Direction: | South |
| Latitude: | 43.36298824° | Resource Type: | Lake |
| Longitude: | -78.62137348° | | |

The photo was taken from Lake Ontario approximately 0.25 miles North of the Project. Somerset Power Plant is visible to the East.

# Viewpoint 16: LAKE LOC. B

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 65 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 8:36 AM |
| Photo Location: | On Boat in the Lake Ontario | Viewing Direction: | South |
| Latitude: | 43.36310454° | Resource Type: | Lake |
| Longitude: | -78.61554934° | | |

The photo was taken from Lake Ontario approximately 0.25 miles North of the Project. Somerset Power Plant is visible to the East.

# Viewpoint 70: LAKE LOC. F

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 70 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 9:07 AM |
| Photo Location: | On Boat in the Lake Ontario | Viewing Direction: | South |
| Latitude: | 43.36780403° | Resource Type: | Lake |
| Longitude: | -78.58108684° | | |

The photo was taken from Lake Ontario approximately 0.25 mile North of the Project. Somerset Power Plant is visible to the West.

# Viewpoint 17: LAKE LOC. G

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 71 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 9:12 AM |
| Photo Location: | On Boat in the Lake Ontario | Viewing Direction: | South |
| Latitude: | 43.36788708° | Resource Type: | Lake |
| Longitude: | -78.5775837° | | |

The photo was taken from Lake Ontario approximately 0.25 mile North of the Project. Somerset Power Plant is visible to the West.

# Viewpoint 63: LAKE LOC. I

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 63 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 8:21 AM |
| Photo Location: | On Boat in the Lake Ontario | Viewing Direction: | South |
| Latitude: | 43.36756434° | Resource Type: | Lake |
| Longitude: | -78.61496252° | | |

The photo was taken from Lake Ontario approximately 0.25 mile North of the Project. Somerset Power Plant is visible to the East.

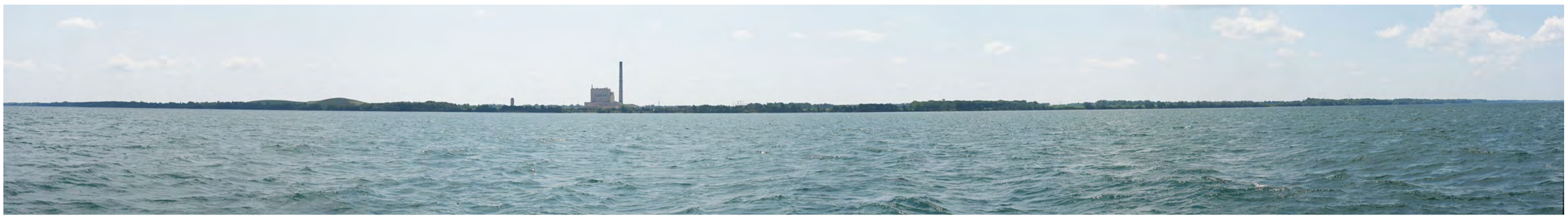
# Viewpoint 61: LAKE LOC. K

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 61 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 7:53 AM |
| Photo Location: | On Boat in the Lake Ontario | Viewing Direction: | South |
| Latitude: | 43.3725235° | Resource Type: | Lake |
| Longitude: | -78.57741632° | | |

The photo was taken from Lake Ontario approximately 0.25 mile North of the Project. Somerset Power Plant is visible to the West.

# Viewpoint 19: LAKE LOC. L

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 79 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 10:29 AM |
| Photo Location: | On Boat in the Lake Ontario | Viewing Direction: | South |
| Latitude: | 43.37624503° | Resource Type: | Lake |
| Longitude: | -78.61645782° | | |



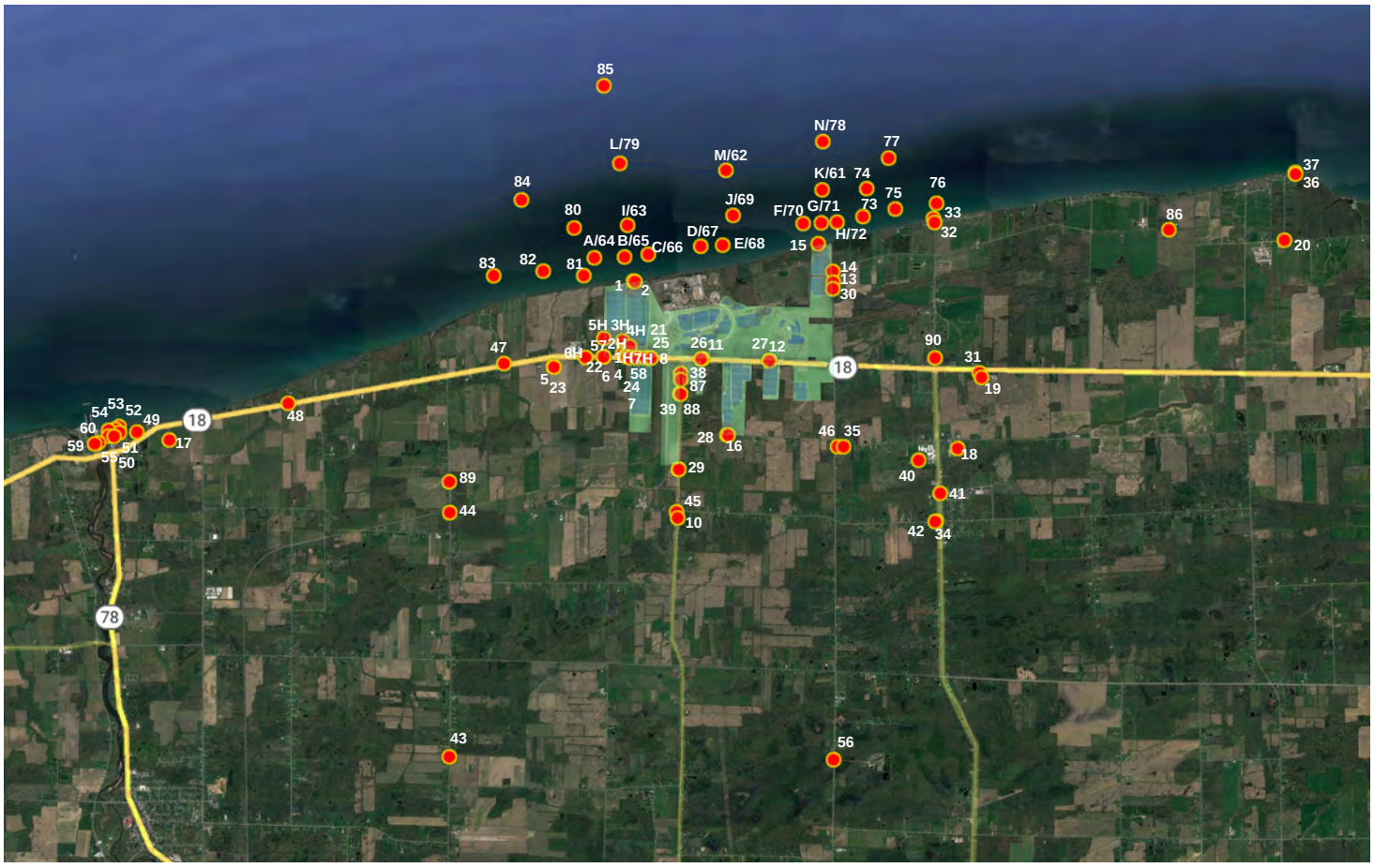
The photo was taken from Lake Ontario approximately 1 mile North of the Project. Somerset Power Plant is visible to the East.

# Viewpoint 78: LAKE LOC. N

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 78 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 10:03 AM |
| Photo Location: | On Boat in the Lake Ontario | Viewing Direction: | South |
| Latitude: | 43.37930179° | Resource Type: | Lake |
| Longitude: | -78.57728805° | | |

The photo was taken from Lake Ontario approximately 1 mile North of the Project. Somerset Power Plant is visible to the West.

# ONSHORE
## FIELD PHOTO LOG




Detailed field viewpoints are mapped in VIA Figure 2.

# VP 1B: BABCOCK HOUSE MUSEUM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 4 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 10:03 AM |
| Photo Location: | Babcock House grounds, off NY-18 | Viewing Direction: | Multi |
| Latitude: | 43.3491364° | Resource Type: | Historic (state listed eligible), public museum |
| Longitude: | -78.6149798° | | |

Looking north from site grounds. Babcock House is visible at left. Lake Ontario is just visible at the horizon.

Looking northwest from front of Babcock House site, standing just north of NY-18.

# Viewpoint 2A: NY-18/Lake Road Location A

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 7 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 10:59 AM |
| Photo Location: | NY-18/Lake Road | Viewing Direction: | West, East |
| Latitude: | 43.3489427010187° | Resource Type: | National Scenic Byway |
| Longitude: | -78.6130692501427° | | |

Looking northwest along NY-18. The Babcock House Museum site and grounds, including two red barns are seen across the highway.


Looking east along NY-18. The rail overpass to Somerset Power plant can be seen in the middleground.

# Viewpoint 2B: NY-18/Lake Road Location B

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 12 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 12:15 PM |
| Photo Location: | NY-18/Lake Road | Viewing Direction: | West, East |
| Latitude: | 43.3485382° | Resource Type: | National Scenic Byway |
| Longitude: | -78.5876031° | | |

Looking west along NY-18. The field to the left would become part of the Facility.

Looking east along NY-18

# Viewpoint 3: HARTLAND ROAD

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 13 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 12:28 PM |
| Photo Location: | Hartland Rd., south of Lower Lake Rd. | Viewing Direction: | North, South |
| Latitude: | 43.3595738° | Resource Type: | Public Road |
| Longitude: | -78.5753173° | | |

Looking southwest along Hartland Road

Looking northwest along Hartland Road

# Viewpoint 4: WEST SOMERSET CEMETERY

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 9 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 11:42 AM |
| Photo Location: | Hosmer Road, north of West Somerset | Viewing Direction: | North |
| Latitude: | 43.3333042° | Resource Type: | Local site |
| Longitude: | -78.6050874° | | |


Looking north from West Somerset Cemetery, located along Hosmer Road. Note Somerset Power plant exhaust tower in the background.

Looking west-northwest from the access road surrounding the cemetery.

# Viewpoint 5: HAIGHT ROAD

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 16 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 1:18 PM |
| Photo Location: | Haight Road, east of Hosmer Road | Viewing Direction: | North |
| Latitude: | 43.3381103° | Resource Type: | Rural Residential Area |
| Longitude: | -78.5955758° | | |

Looking west along Haight Road.

Looking north from Haight Road, near residences.

# Viewpoint 6: THIRTY-MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE and Viewpoint 7: GOLDEN HILL STATE PARK

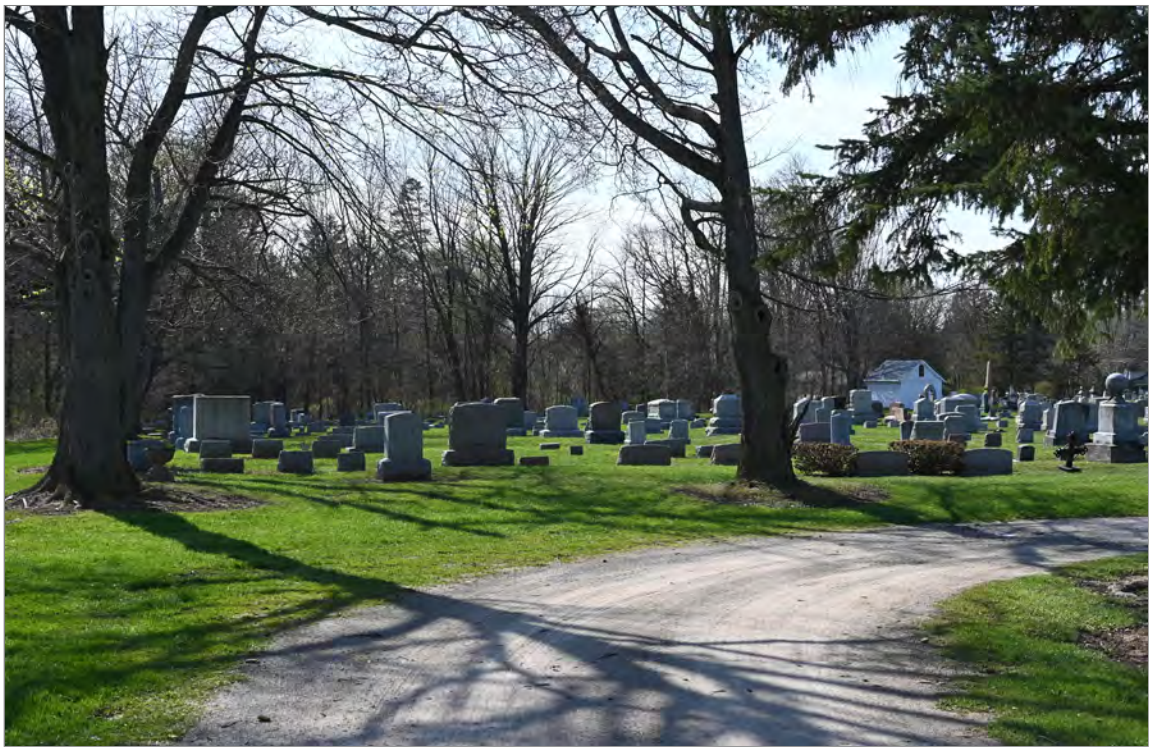
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 20 | Date/Time: | 06/22/2022 \| 2:48 PM |
| Photo Location: | Golden Hill State Park | Viewing Direction: | West |
| Latitude: | 43.3654148° | Resource Type: | Historic (NRHP), Public Recreation |
| Longitude: | -78.4882211° | | |

Looking west from the lens deck of Thirty-Mile Point Lighthouse.

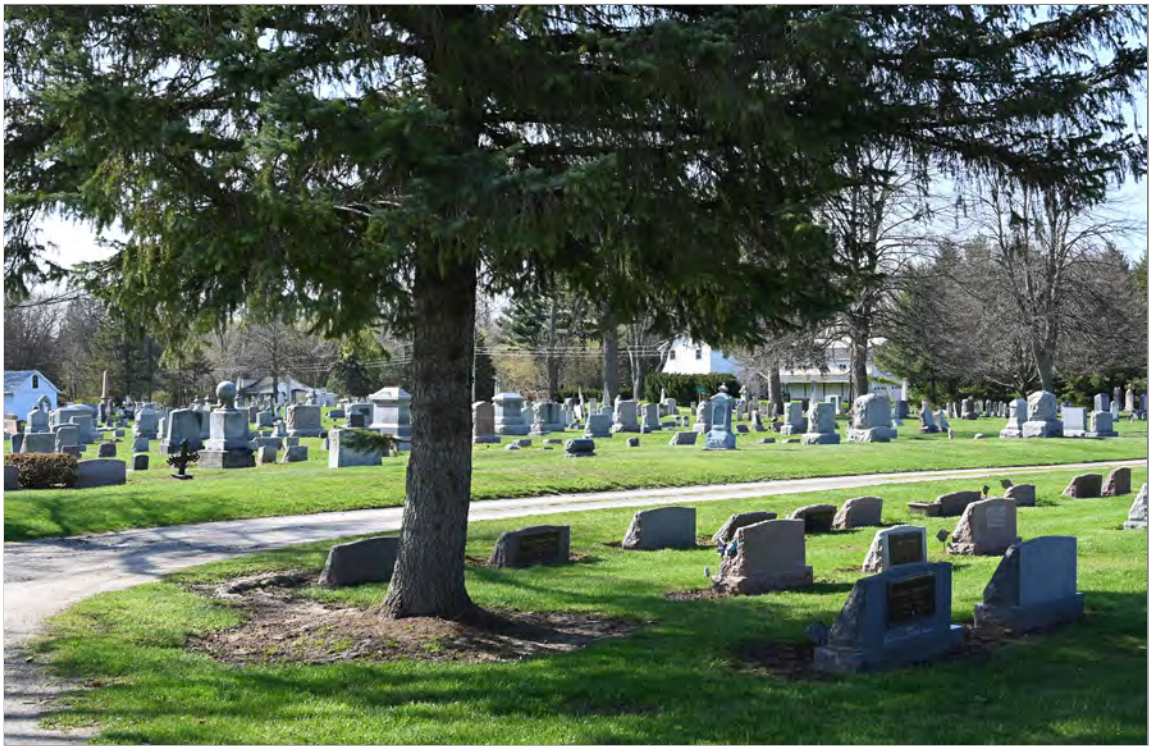

Looking west from Golden Hill State Park. Lake Ontario is seen to the right, and public camping to the left.

# Viewpoint 8: SOMERSET CEMETERY

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 19 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 2:32 PM |
| Photo Location: | Somerset Cemetery | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Latitude: | 43.3461996° | Resource Type: | Local site |
| Longitude: | -78.546696° | | |



Looking west from within Somerset Cemetery. Views are screened by dense vegetation.



Looking northwest from within Somerset Cemetery. NY-18/ Lake Road passes across the middleground of the scene.

# Viewpoint 9: SOMERSET TOWN PARK

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 18 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 2:02 PM |
| Photo Location: | Somerset Town Park | Viewing Direction: | Northwest, West |
| Latitude: | 43.3362328° | Resource Type: | Municipal Park |
| Longitude: | -78.5513041° | | |

Looking northwest from Somerset Town Park.

Looking west from Somerset Town Park. The transportation maintenance yard is seen in the middleground.

# Viewpoint 10: WEST SOMERSET BAPTIST CHURCH

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 10 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \|11:50 AM |
| Photo Location: | West Somerset Baptist Church | Viewing Direction: | Northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.326493885744° | Resource Type: | Place of Worship |
| Longitude: | -78.6052968597938° | | |

Looking north along Hosmer Road. The church is located to the left in the frame.

Another north view from near West Somerset Baptist Church.

# Viewpoint 11: SAWYER CEMETERY

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 5 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 10:24 AM |
| Photo Location: | Sawyer Cemetery | Viewing Direction: | East-northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.3477074° | Resource Type: | Local site |
| Longitude: | -78.6292902° | | |

Looking northwest from Sawyer Cemetery.

Looking north from Sawyer Cemetery. Lake Ontario can be seen along the horizon, beyond the roadway of NY-18.

# Viewpoint 12: KRULL COUNTY PARK

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 17 | Date/Time: | 04/29/2022 \| 1:41 PM |
| Photo Location: | Niagara County Krull Park, Olcott, NY | Viewing Direction: | East-northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.3373631° | Resource Type: | Recreation |
| Longitude: | -78.7033333° | | |

Looking northeast from the soccer fields area within Krull County Park.

Looking east from the soccer fields area within Krull County Park.

# Viewpoint 13: LAKE ROAD: SMITH RESIDENCE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Viewpoint: | 13 | Date/Time: | N/A |
| Photo Location: | NY-18/Lake Rd., west of Facility site | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Latitude: | 43.349106° | Resource Type: | Historic, Private |
| Longitude: | -78.623028° | | (NY State listed eligible) |


Looking east along NY-18 near Smith Residence, which is seen to the left.

Looking east toward Project along NY-18 near Smith Residence.

# Viewpoint 14: BARKER BI-CENTENNIAL PARK

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 32 | Date/Time: | 06/22/2022 \| 11:58 PM |
| Photo Location: | Barker Bi-Centennial Park | Viewing Direction: | South-Southeast |
| Latitude: | 43.36793836° | Resource Type: | Recreation |
| Longitude: | -78.55573146° | | |

Looking west-southwest from Bi-Centennial Park

Looking southwest along the shoreline of Lake Ontario from a public dock at Bi-Centennial Park.

# Viewpoint 15: U-PICK BLUEBERRY FARM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 15 | Date/Time: | 04/29/222 \| 10:48 AM |
| Photo Location: | Russels U-Pick Blueberries | Viewing Direction: | Northwest |
| Latitude: | 43.3491003127398° | Resource Type: | Private Business, Local Site |
| Longitude: | -78.6195918294452° | | |

Looking north from U-Pick Blueberry site.

Looking east from U-Pick Blueberry site.

# Viewpoints: NY-18/Lake Road (Residence west of Hosmer Rd.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 8, 25 | Date/Time: | Leaf-Off 04/29/2022 \| 11:13 AM |
| Photo Location: | Lake Road near Substation | | Leaff-On 06/22/2022 \| 10:21 AM |
| Latitude: | 43.3489226369503° | Viewing Direction: | Northwest, East |
| Longitude: | -78.6104553565346° | Resource Type: | Residence |

Key Map

Looking northwest on Lake Road toward entry drive to existing power plant. Leaf off season viewing condition.

Looking east on Lake Road from near the existing Substation. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint: NY-18/Lake Road (Residence east of Hosmer Rd.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 11, 26 | Date/Time: | Leaf-Off 04/29/2022 \| 12:00PM |
| Photo Location: | Lake Road, Residence area | | Leaff-On 06/22/2022 \| 10:29AM |
| Latitude: | 43.3488235° | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Longitude: | -78.6004876° | Resource Type: | Residence |

Key Map

Looking east along Lake Rd. Leaf off season viewing condition.

Looking east along Lake Rd., from approximately the same location as image above. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 40: Barker Junior/Senior High School

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 40 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 11:09 AM |
| Photo Location: | South of School Field | Viewing Direction: | West |
| Latitude: | 43.334573° | Resource Type: | School |
| Longitude: | -78.558845° | | |

Looking Northwest from South of school field. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking West from South of school field. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 41: Village of Barker

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 41 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 11:21 AM |
| Photo Location: | Corner of Main St and Quaker Road | Viewing Direction: | North |
| Latitude: | 43.32993636° | Resource Type: | Town |
| Longitude: | -78.55467123° | | |


Looking Northwest from the corner of Quaker Road and Main St. Leaf on season viewing condition.


Looking North from the corner of Quaker Road and Main St. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 34: Our Lady of Lake Church

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 34, 42 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 11:34 AM |
| Photo Location: | North side of W Somerset Road | Viewing Direction: | Northwest |
| Latitude: | 43.32596407° | Resource Type: | Place to worship |
| Longitude: | -78.55564307° | | |

Looking Northwest from North side of W Somerset Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking West from North side of W Somerset Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 43: Hess Road Church

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 43 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 12:09 PM |
| Photo Location: | East of Hess Road Wesleyan Church | Viewing Direction: | Northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.29296929° | Resource Type: | Place to Worship |
| Longitude: | -78.64930742° | | |

Looking Northeast to project area from Hess Road. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Northeast to project area from Hess Road. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 44: Village of Appleton

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 44 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 12:18 PM |
| Photo Location: | Intersection of Hess Rd & Railroad Ave | Viewing Direction: | Northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.32723036° | Resource Type: | Town, Residence |
| Longitude: | -78.64923976° | | |

Looking Northeast to project area from Hess Road. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Northeast to project area from Hess Road. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 10: West Somerset Baptist Church

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 45 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 12:26 PM |
| Photo Location: | On W Somerset Rd at Hosmer Rd | Viewing Direction: | Northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.32733397° | Resource Type: | Residence, Place to worship |
| Longitude: | -78.60551221° | | |

Looking Northeast to project area from W Somerset Road at Hosmer Road. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Northeast to project area from W Somerset Road at Hosmer Road. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint : Barker Assemblages

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 46 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 12:40 PM |
| Photo Location: | Northside of Haight Road | Viewing Direction: | Northwest |
| Latitude: | 43.33649252° | Resource Type: | Residence |
| Longitude: | -78.5744669° | | |

Looking Northwest to project area from Haight Road near Hartland Road. Leaf on condition.

Looking Northwest to project area from Haight Road near Hartland Road. Leaf on condition.

# Viewpoint 47: The Winery at Marjim Manor

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 47 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 12:58 PM |
| Photo Location: | In front of Marjim Manor | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Latitude: | 43.34814333° | Resource Type: | Private business |
| Longitude: | -78.6387984° | | |

Looking East to project area from Marjim Manor. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Northeast to project area from Marjim Manor. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 48: Niagara RV

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 48 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 1:13 PM |
| Photo Location: | Lake Rd near Niagara RV | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Latitude: | 43.34253779° | Resource Type: | Residence |
| Longitude: | -78.68041727° | | |

Looking East to project area from North side of Lake Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Northeast to project area from North side of Lake Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 49: Olcott Ye Old Log Cabin

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 49 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 1:30 PM |
| Photo Location: | Krull County Park, Olcott, NY | Viewing Direction: | East, Southeast |
| Latitude: | 43.33848637° | Resource Type: | Public Recreation |
| Longitude: | -78.70958987° | | |


Looking East to project area from South corner of E Main St, in front of Ye Olde Log Cabin. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Southeast to project area from South corner of E Main St, in front of Ye Olde Log Cabin. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 50 : Olcott Methodist Church

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 50 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 1:56 PM |
| Photo Location: | South of E Main St | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Latitude: | 43.33788445° | Resource Type: | Town, Residence |
| Longitude: | -78.71401144° | | |

Looking East from South side of E Main St, in front of Olcott Methodist Church. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking East from South side of E Main St, in front of Olcott Methodist Church. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 51: Beach Park

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 51 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 2:00 PM |
| Photo Location: | Franklin St at Olcott Beach Park | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Latitude: | 43.33841282° | Resource Type: | Recreation |
| Longitude: | -78.71295431° | | |

Looking East from Olcott Beach Park on Franklin St. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking East from Olcott Beach Park on Franklin St. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 52: Olcott Beach

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 52 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 2:06 PM |
| Photo Location: | Olcott Beach | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Latitude: | 43.33925904° | Resource Type: | Recreation |
| Longitude: | -78.71306092° | | |

Looking Northeast from Olcott Beach. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking East from Olcott Beach. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 53: Olcott Beach, Ontario Street

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 53 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 2:15 PM |
| Photo Location: | Ontario St | Viewing Direction: | Northeast, East |
| Latitude: | 43.33890259° | Resource Type: | Town, Residence |
| Longitude: | -78.71375804° | | |

Looking Northeast from Ontario Street. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking East from Ontario Street. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 54: Olcott Lighthouse

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 54 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 2:18 PM |
| Photo Location: | Ontario St. at Olcott Beach Lighthouse | Viewing Direction: | East, Southeast |
| Latitude: | 43.33873172° | Resource Type: | Recreation |
| Longitude: | -78.71504893° | | |

Looking East from Olcott Beach Lighthouse. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Southeast from Olcott Beach Lighthouse. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 55: Civil War Monument

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 55 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 2:21 PM |
| Photo Location: | Olcott, NY: E Main St at Rockport St | Viewing Direction: | East |
| Latitude: | 43.33790568° | Resource Type: | Town, Monument |
| Longitude: | -78.71505994° | | |

Looking East toward Civil War Monument. Leaf on season viewing condition.


Looking East from E Main St ar Rockport St. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 56: Hartland RV

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 56 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 2:53 PM |
| Photo Location: | Hartland Rd at Hartland RV Resort | Viewing Direction: | North, Northwest |
| Latitude: | 43.29257189° | Resource Type: | Local Site |
| Longitude: | -78.57525463° | | |

Looking North from Hartland Rd at entry of Niagara Hartland RV resort. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Northwest from Hartland Rd at entry of Niagara Hartland RV resort. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 15: NY-18/Lake Road at U-Pick Blueberry farm

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 57 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 3:05 PM |
| Photo Location: | Lake Rd at Russell U Pick Blueberry | Viewing Direction: | Northeast, East |
| Latitude: | 43.34909483° | Resource Type: | Local Site |
| Longitude: | -78.61959886° | | |

Looking Northeast on Lake Rd in front of U Pick Blueberry. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking East on Lake Rd in front of U Pick Blueberry. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 58: NY-18 Near Facility Substation

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 58 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 3:13 PM |
| Photo Location: | Lake Rd near Substation | Viewing Direction: | North |
| Latitude: | 43.34894027° | Resource Type: | Transportation Corridor |
| Longitude: | -78.61154189° | | |


Looking Northeast on Lake Rd toward substation area. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking North on Lake Rd at entry way to Kintigh Substation, looking toward facility substation and project area. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 59: W Main Street

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 59 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 6:28 AM |
| Photo Location: | Olcott, NY: W Main St at Water St | Viewing Direction: | Northeast, East |
| Latitude: | 43.33682602° | Resource Type: | Local Site |
| Longitude: | -78.71774557° | | |

Looking Northeast on W Main St at Water St. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking East on W Main St at Water St. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 60: Marina at Olcott

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 60 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 6:32 AM |
| Photo Location: | End of W Main St, at Marina | Viewing Direction: | East, Northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.33700175° | Resource Type: | Recreation; Local Marina |
| Longitude: | -78.71699706° | | |

Looking East on from Marina at the end of W Main st. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Northeast on from Marina at the end of W Main st. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 86: Haight's Campground

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 86 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 12:55 PM |
| Photo Location: | Lower Lake Rd at Haight's Park | Viewing Direction: | West, Southwest |
| Latitude: | 43.36689224° | Resource Type: | Local Site |
| Longitude: | -78.51051289° | | |

Looking West on Lower Lake Rd near Haight's park. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Southwest on Lower Lake Rd near Haight's park. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 87: Hosmer Road Loc. 1

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 87 | Date/Time: | 07/14/2023 \| 10:45 AM |
| Photo Location: | Hosmer Rd., West of project area | Viewing Direction: | Northeast, North |
| Latitude: | 43.34591629° | Resource Type: | Transportation Route; Local Road |
| Longitude: | -78.60469589° | | |

Looking Northeast toward project area on Hosmer Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking North on Hosmer Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 88: Hosmer Rd. Loc. 2

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 88 | Date/Time: | 07/11/2023 \| 10:51 AM |
| Photo Location: | Hosmer Rd., Southwest of project area | Viewing Direction: | North, Northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.34387008° | Resource Type: | Local Site, Residence |
| Longitude: | -78.60473558° | | |

Looking North on Hosmer Rd, near local residence. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking North on Hosmer Rd, near local residence. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint 91: Blackbird Cider Works

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 91 | Date/Time: | 07/10/2023 \| 11:09 AM |
| Photo Location: | Lower Lake Rd., west of Quaker Rd. | Viewing Direction: | West |
| Latitude: | 43°21'48.11"N | Resource Type: | Local private commercial site |
| Longitude: | 78°33'25.67"W | | |

Looking west toward Facility area from Blackbird Cider Works, off Lower Lake Rd.

Looking west-southwest along Lower Lake Rd. from the Blackbird Cider Works.

# Viewpoint: Glare Analysis OP 9

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 90 | Date/Time: | 07/14/2023 \| 11:24 AM |
| Photo Location: | Quake Rd, near Residence area | Viewing Direction: | Northwest, West |
| Latitude: | 43.34892381° | Resource Type: | Local Site, Residence |
| Longitude: | -78.55566178° | | |

Looking Northwest toward project area from Quake Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking West toward project area from Quake Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

# Viewpoint: Glare Analysis OP 13

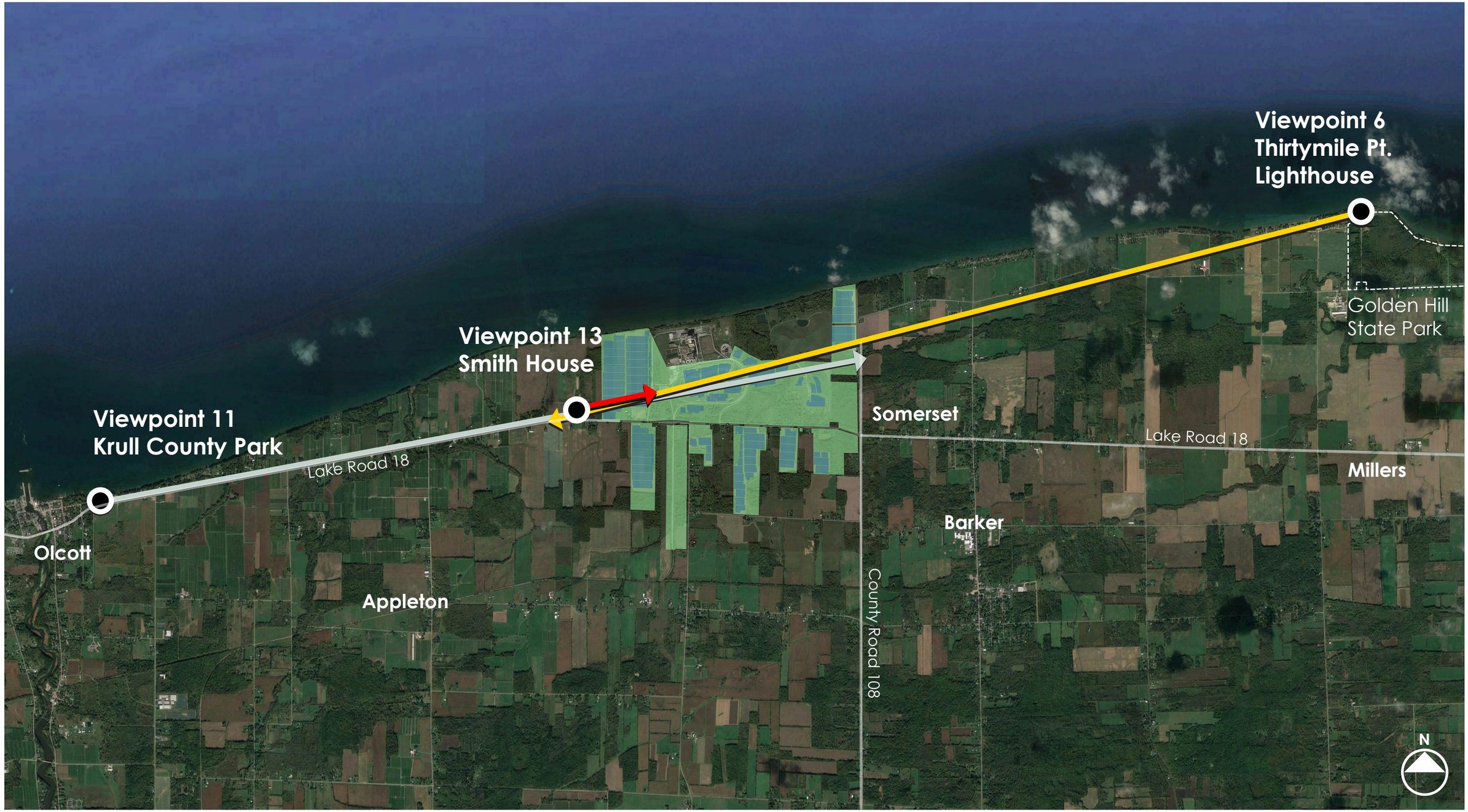
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field/VSR ID: | 89 | Date/Time: | 07/14/2023 \| 11:11 AM |
| Photo Location: | Hess Rd, in front of Russell Farms | Viewing Direction: | Northeast |
| Latitude: | 43.33155159° | Resource Type: | Local Site |
| Longitude: | -78.64932406° | | |

Looking Northeast toward project area from Hosmer Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

Looking Northeast toward project area from Hosmer Rd. Leaf on season viewing condition.

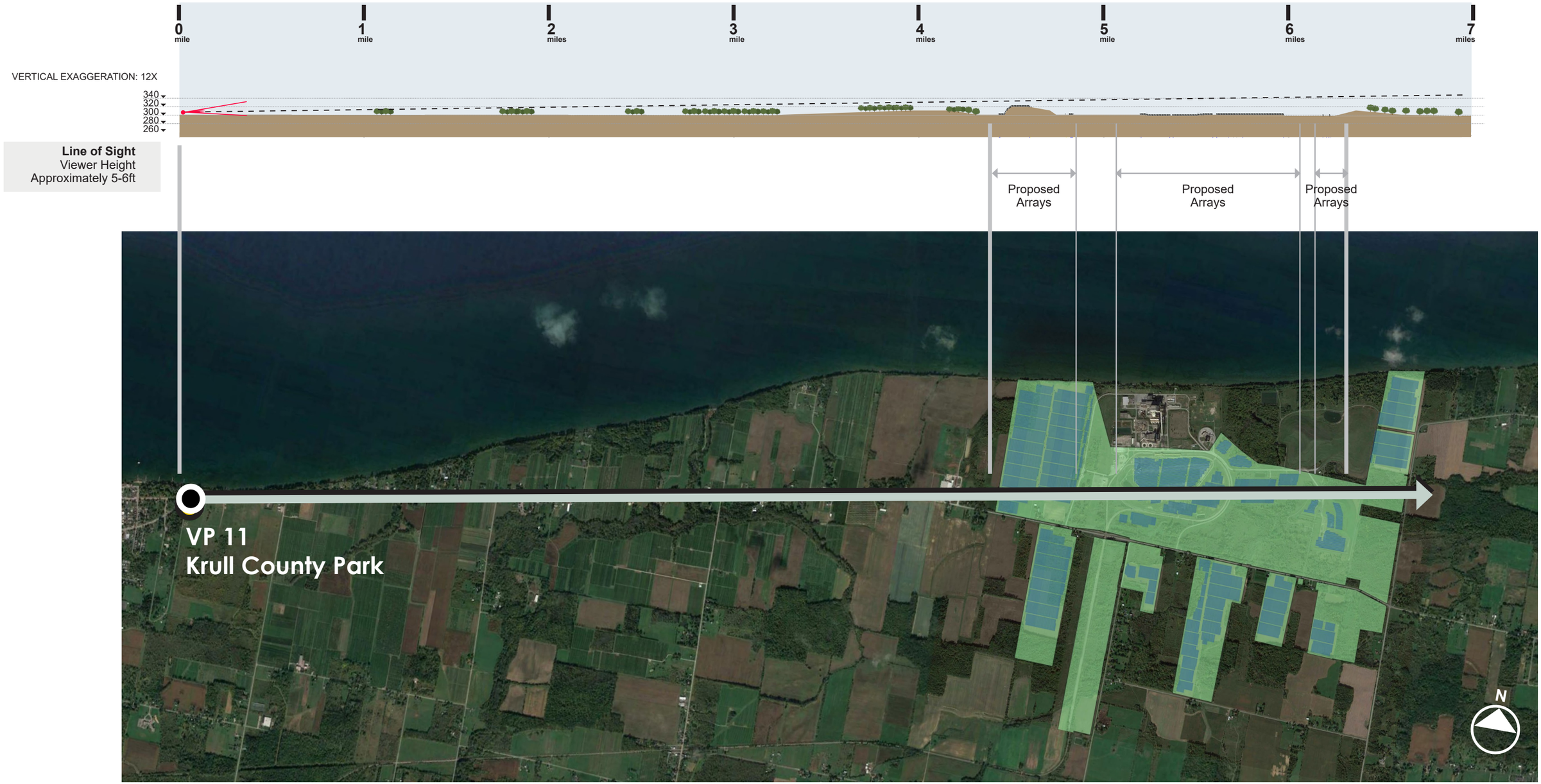
# Attachment 4:
# Line-of-Sight Profiles

# LINE OF SIGHT WITH KEY PROFILE

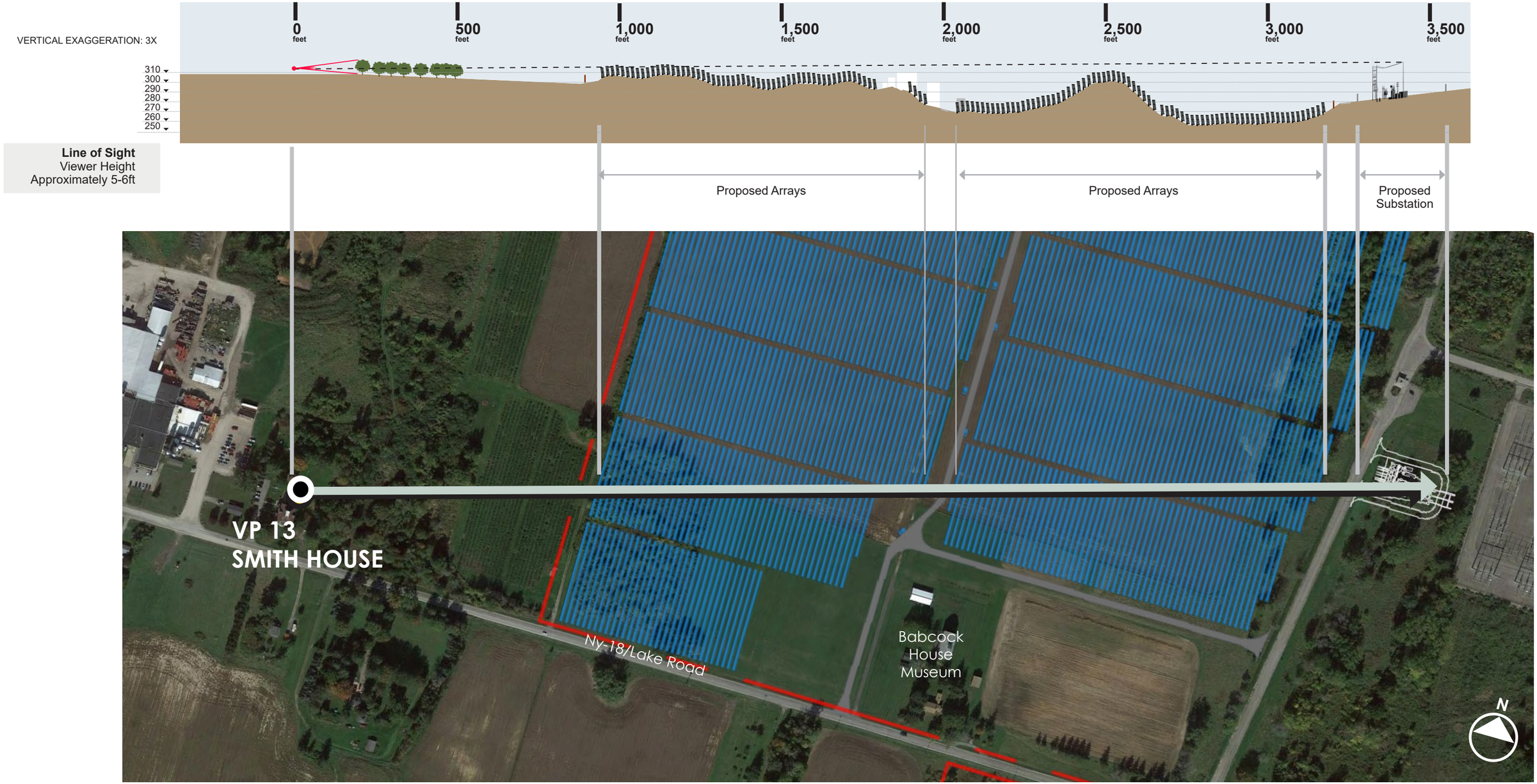


# LINE OF SIGHT : VIEWPOINT 6 THIRTYMILE PT. LIGHTHOUSE

# LINE OF SIGHT : VIEWPOINT 11 KRULL COUNTY PARK



# LINE OF SIGHT : VIEWPOINT 13 SMITH HOUSE - SUBSTATION



# Attachment 5:
# Rating Panel Qualifications

Somerset Solar Project
Rating Panel Qualifications

| Rating Panel Member | Professional Summary | Education |
|---|---|---|
| Jennifer Chester,<br>Senior Project Manager & GIS Discipline Lead | Ms. Chester has more than 18 years of experience in environmental resource and utility planning projects. Technical skills include geographic information systems (GIS), cartographic and graphic design, remote sensing, visual simulations, natural and cultural resource mapping, and AutoCAD. Ms. Chester is also a Senior Project Manager with extensive experience in leading project teams and working with clients to execute successful projects. Ms. Chester applies her skills to a variety of energy projects including generation and transmission work, specializing in energy facility routing and siting and permitting. | BS, Environmental Science, Minor in Geographic Information Systems, Bowling Green State University, 2001 |
| Shaun Brooks,<br>Environmental Planner/Project Manager | Ms. Brooks is an environmental planner/project manager with 17 years of experience in environmental and natural resources planning and management with a focus on visual resource inventory and analysis. She has evaluated recreation resources, land use, aesthetic and visual resources, socioeconomics, and environmental justice issues in multiple types of environmental documents, including environmental impact statements (EISs) and environmental assessments (EAs) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); checklists and EISs under Washington SEPA; New York SEQR EISs; Applications for Site Certification (ASC) to the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) compliance, as well as for other state or local regulations and policies. In addition, she has participated in multiple third-party EISs for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and resource reports for LNG terminal and pipeline applications to FERC. Ms. Brooks has also prepared resource assessments for project feasibility reports and multiple land use permit applications to county governments. She has conducted multiple visual impact assessments for solar facilities and onshore and offshore wind facilities throughout the United States. | MEP, Environmental Planning, Arizona State University, 2004<br><br>BS, Forest Recreation Resources, Oregon State University, 2001 |
| Brynn Guthrie, PLA<br>Landscape Architect, Visual Resource Specialist | Ms. Guthrie is a landscape architect with 16 years of experience in open space design, environmental planning and permitting, including visual resource assessment. She has conducted visual assessments for National Park Service Units, Wild and Scenic Rivers, urban centers, and rural areas. Her visual assessment project experience has included land and offshore wind, solar, transmission, highway, and port improvements. | Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon 2006 |

# Attachment 6: Visual Contrast Rating Forms/Rating Criteria

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-1A | | | **Reviewers Name:** J. Chester | | |
| **Location:** Babcock House Museum | | | **Date:** 8/18/2022 | | |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 300 feet | | | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Rural/Agricultural | | |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | | | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☒<br>*Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ | | |
| **Type of User:** Residents; Tourists and Recreational Users | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | | |
| | *User Expectation:* Moderate | *Duration of View:* Moderate | *Use Volume:* Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | *Overall Sensitivity:* Moderate-Low | |

**Description of Existing View:**

Babcock House Museum is located north of Lake Road and west of Hartland Road. Views from interior to the Museum property include a tan brick, multi-level home, several single- and two-story outbuildings with red painted siding, and a two-story brick barn. A dozen or more large, established deciduous and coniferous trees are located amongst the buildings on the Museum property. Beyond the Museum property, agricultural fields are present in the foreground to middleground in all directions with some stands of trees located in the middleground to background. The terrain in the area is generally flat. Modifications to the natural landscape include the buildings associated with the Museum property, other homes and buildings, roadways, and electric distribution lines.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Terrain in the area is flat in the foreground and middleground and slopes downward toward Lake Ontario to the north. Lake Ontario is not visible from most locations within the Museum property due to large trees on the property and adjacent land as well as the horizontal tree line along the lake shore. | Solar panels are proposed to be located to the north and west of the Museum property and would be visible from some locations within the buildings on site and exterior locations around the property where views are not obstructed by trees and buildings. Major grading is not anticipated and therefore no significant change to the landform is anticipated. The limited views of Lake Ontario from ground level may be obscured by panel placement, however views from elevated locations within buildings likely would not be blocked. The solar panels will appear as geometric blocks that vary in color as they reflect light and mirror the sky, sometimes appearing similar in color to the lake. Rows of solar panels mimic the horizontal lines associated with the horizon, tree line, and geometric shapes of adjacent agricultural fields. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Adjacent agricultural fields appear as green or tan blocks interspersed with stands of trees appearing horizontally linear, brown, dark green, and tan in color (during leaf off), adjacent residential and Museum lawn areas appear bright green. The Museum property contains a dozen or more large, established coniferous and deciduous trees that create shadows on the grounds, structures, and screen some views to adjacent areas. | Installation of project solar panels would remove some adjacent fields from agricultural production and replace them with the strong geometric pattern of the solar panels that will appear darker grey or blue in color. Horizontal line of the panels will appear backdropped by trees and will not contrast greatly with the line of fields meeting w/trees and/or the horizon. Large trees on the Museum property will not be affected by the project. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The Museum property contains approximately five outbuildings and a home. The buildings are linear, some a medium brown brick and others red painted siding. Buildings are one and two-story structures. The Museum property is adjacent to a two-lane paved roadway (Lake Drive) which has vertical electric distribution poles running | Solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks that appear gray in color. This color contrasts less with the darker tree line and horizontal lines of nearby roads and driveways. The vertical posts holding the panels and the fence posts will appear as strong vertical elements among | 2 |

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | along the south side as well poles to bring power to the Museum property. Portions of the adjacent power infrastructure (smokestack and electric substation) to the east are visible from some locations around the Museum property. A paved pull-out is located on the southeast side of the Museum property where signage provides information about the area and connects to a gravel access drive that extends north towards buildings on the site. A gravel field access road is located along the west side of the Museum property. | other existing vertical objects such as trees, electric poles, substation components and the smokestack. | |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3 |

**Proposed Mitigation:**

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to NY-18/Lake Road, Haight Road, and Hartland Road. Landscaping proposed will be a mix of regularly spaced coniferous (evergreen) trees and denser plantings of shrubs. The proposed trees will initially provide a visual break from the strong horizontal lines of the solar panels and screen some of the solar panels. As they mature, the trees will screen more of the panels from adjacent viewers. The dense shrub plantings will immediately screen the lower portion of the solar panels, including the vertical posts. The proposed mitigation will provide screening and visual breaks from the geometric form of the solar panels.

**CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2]**

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Terrain in the area is flat in the foreground and middleground and slopes downward toward Lake Ontario to the north. Lake Ontario is not visible from most locations within the Museum property due to large trees on the property and adjacent land as well as the horizontal tree line along the lake shore. | Solar panels are proposed to be located to the north and west of the Museum property and would be visible from some locations within the buildings on site and exterior locations around the property where views are not obstructed by trees and buildings. Major grading is not anticipated and therefore no significant change to the landform is anticipated. The limited views of Lake Ontario from ground level may be obscured by panel placement, however views from elevated locations within buildings likely would not be blocked. The solar panels are much less noticeable compared to the without mitigation planting simulation because of the amount of the screening the mitigation plants provide. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Adjacent agricultural fields appear as green or tan blocks interspersed with stands of trees appearing horizontally linear, brown, dark green, and tan in color (during leaf off), adjacent residential and Museum lawn areas appear bright green. The Museum property contains a dozen or more large, established coniferous and deciduous trees that create shadows on the grounds, structures, and screen some views to adjacent areas. | Installation of project solar panels would remove some adjacent fields from agricultural production and replace them with the geometric pattern of the solar panels. Proposed mitigation plantings will mostly screen views of the panels, but the remaining views of panels will appear darker grey or blue in color. Horizontal line of the panels will appear backdropped by trees and will not contrast greatly with the line of fields meeting w/trees and/or the horizon. Proposed plantings include a variety of evergreen trees installed in two straight rows on either side of the access road, with a deciduous shrub installed along the base of the far row of evergreen trees. Large trees on the Museum property will not be affected by the project. | 1 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The Museum property contains approximately five outbuildings and a home. The buildings are linear, some a medium brown brick and others red painted siding. Buildings are one and two-story structures. The Museum property is adjacent to a two-lane paved roadway (Lake Drive) which has vertical electric distribution poles running along the south side as well poles to bring power to the | Solar panels are almost fully screened from view by mitigation plantings. Where the top portion of panels can be seen, they will appear as linear, geometric blocks that appear gray in color. This color contrasts less with the darker tree line and horizontal lines of nearby roads and driveways. The fencing is no longer a strong visual element because it is obscured by the mitigation plantings. | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Museum property. Portions of the adjacent power infrastructure (smokestack and electric substation) to the east are visible from some locations around the Museum property. A paved pull-out is located on the southeast side of the Museum property where signage provides information about the area and connects to a gravel access drive that extends north towards buildings on the site. A gravel field access road is located along the west side of the Museum property. | | |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 1.66 |

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-1B | **Reviewers Name:** P. Fell |
| **Location:** Babcock House Museum, Seen from Lake Road | **Date:** 8/15/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 550 feet (from components shown) | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agricultural |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐<br>*Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☒<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Moderate-Low | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by flat terrain covered by green lawn surrounding the Babcock house and a cultivated field of corn in the visible background beyond the house. Patches of mixed woodlands can be seen enclosing the view to the east into the middleground, behind the cultivated field. The classic architecture, form, lines and light beige colors and fine varying texture of the Babcock House, along with a small red shed dominate the view, balanced with a large walnut tree in the foreground. Looking due north, a narrow horizontal blue line of blue water (Lake Ontario) is visible across the background, behind the Babcock House, emphasizing the openness of the landscape. Mixed trees enclose the view as one turns to look east.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform is level to very gently rolling in the foreground/middleground. Limited locations from the Babcock House Museum site have a line of sight to Lake Ontario, especially during winter months. | No grading is shown at this location. | 2 |
| Vegetation | The large mature trees in the foreground – deciduous and conifer – are the dominant vegetative features, but the regular lines and fine textures of the green grass and cultivated corn field (seen during the summer season) contribute visual interest. During the winter season, the green grass and large trees forms and lines still dominate, but the defoliated canopies open the view to more blue sky. | Agricultural field crop is replaced by solar panels behind the historic house. Woodland vegetation in the middleground is somewhat screened by row of panels, but still visible above them across the backdrop. Seasonal change assumed to occur in the agricultural field (crop growth, maturation, harvest) would be altered by the presence of fixed equipment. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The most prominent feature is the Babcock House itself. Seen in the foreground, the classic architecture and unique cobble texture is appealing and photogenic. | Solar panels appear as dark gray lines and geometric shapes partly screened in the middleground across the backdrop fields. Panels appear in the background and are subordinate to the historic structure, which remain the focus of the scene. The gray color of the panels differs from the earth-tone bright green field colors. Fencing is not prominent, but wood color appears harmonious with landscape. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 8 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.7 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscaping is proposed around the Facility where it is adjacent to the Babcock House site. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 5-10 years) screen most of the PV panels from viewers looking at the Babcock House from Lake Road. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the plantings are installed) and fully screened after approximately 15 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed mitigation will over time reduce visibility and visual contrast of the Facility as viewed from Babcock House Museum.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform is level to very gently rolling in the foreground/middleground. Limited locations from the Babcock House Museum site have a line of sight to Lake Ontario, especially during winter months. | No grading is shown at this location. Long row of panels and fencing appears across the field behind the house in the middle ground. Much of the Facility components are screened by large trees and structures on the Babcock House site. The horizontal forms and colors of the panels are somewhat compatible with the flatness of the land. | 1 |
| Vegetation | The large mature trees in the foreground – deciduous and conifer – are the dominant vegetative features, but the regular lines and fine textures of the green grass and cultivated corn field (seen during the summer season) contribute visual interest. During the winter season, the green grass and large trees forms and lines still dominate, but the defoliated canopies open the view to more blue sky. | Initially, the young landscape plantings increase the busyness of visual objects seen across the background compared to the formerly simple form of the cultivated crop, and do not fully screen the solar arrays. With time though, 5 years following planting installation, the evergreen trees and shrubs come together, screening the solar arrays and appear similar to the existing dark green hedgerows seen in the distance. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The most prominent feature is the Babcock House itself. Seen in the foreground, the classic architecture and unique cobble texture is appealing and photogenic. | With time, the mitigation plantings fully screen the Facility from view, reducing its visual contrast as seen from this viewpoint. | 1 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating with Landscape Mitigation Total*** | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating with Landscape Mitigation Average*** | 1.7 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-2A | **Reviewers Name:** J. Chester |
| **Location:** NY-18/Lake Road Loc. 1 | **Date:** 8/18/22 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 0.1 mi. | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Transportation Corridor |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☒<br>*Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Moderate | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

From the paved two-lane roadway, Lake Road, the rural agrarian landscape is divided into somewhat regularly shaped agricultural fields, many lined with trees, interspersed with larger stands of tall coniferous and deciduous trees. Rural residential areas which include structures such as homes, outbuildings, and barns exist along the roadway as do historic locations such as Babcock House Museum. Through breaks in the trees, the tall smokestack associated with the Somerset power generation facility is visible. Existing overhead electrical distribution lines are located along Lake Road and taller transmission lines are visible in the distance. Lake Ontario is not visible from this area.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Terrain is relatively flat in the foreground and middleground, sloping slightly downward toward Lake Ontario and upward to the south in the background. Lake Ontario is not visible from this location. The view is absent of notable landforms as distant views, and the horizon, are screened by vegetation. Colors in the landscape include green grasses, tan agricultural fields, mixed shades of green in the trees, and red, white and other paint colors applied to homes and outbuildings. | Major grading activities are not anticipated in this area and therefore impacts to the landform is not anticipated. The solar panels will generally follow the flat or gently sloping terrain. Some portions of the panels may be skylined where not backdropped by trees or screened by vegetation along the roadway. | 1 |
| Vegetation | Dense vegetation in the form of shorter trees and taller established tree lines and stands exists in this area along with shorter shrubs, grasses, and agricultural crops. Stands of trees exist in the foreground along the roadway, middleground and background. Agricultural fields are present in all distance zones and alternate with larger stands of trees and rural residential properties. Colors in the landscape include green grasses, tan agricultural fields, mixed shades of green in the trees, | Trees located within the area planned for solar panels will be removed, resulting in some solar panels appearing skylined. Trees along the roadway will remain and will screen the view of solar panels in this area from the roadway. The large trees in the foreground have strong vertical lines, are darker green in color and taller than the solar panels and dominate the view. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Modifications to the natural landscape include the paved, two-lane road, existing electrical distribution and transmission lines, homes/outbuildings/barns, a tall smokestack, and agricultural fields. Many of these elements introduce tall, regularly spaced vertical elements into the landscape. Grey metal, wood, and red and white painted elements are visible. | The solar panels will appear grey and dark in color, regularly spaced, and introduce relatively short vertical elements into the landscape. The security fence around the solar facility will also introduce regularly spaced vertical elements in wood and silver tones. A substation facility to the east will contain several taller vertical elements that will be visible when not screened by trees in the foreground. These elements will be seen in the context of the other existing modifications and is not anticipated to introduce great contrast. | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

**Proposed Mitigation:**

Landscape screening (evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the southern boundary of the Facility parallel to NY-18/Lake Road. The proposed landscape screening will provide screening in the middleground area to supplement the larger trees along the road in the foreground. In addition to providing screening, the landscape material will complement the natural landscape and reduce contrast from the solar panels and fence posts. After installation, the trees will continue to grow and provide additional screening of the solar facility.

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Terrain is relatively flat in the foreground and middleground, sloping slightly downward toward Lake Ontario and upward to the south in the background. Lake Ontario is not visible from this location. The view is absent of notable landforms as distant views, and the horizon, are screened by vegetation. Colors in the landscape include green grasses, tan agricultural fields, mixed shades of green in the trees, and red, white and other paint colors applied to homes and outbuildings. | Major grading activities are not anticipated in this area and therefore impacts to the landform is not anticipated. The solar panels will generally follow the flat or gently sloping terrain. | 1 |
| Vegetation | Dense vegetation in the form of shorter trees and taller established tree lines and stands exists in this area along with shorter shrubs, grasses, and agricultural crops. Stands of trees exist in the foreground along the roadway, middleground and background. Agricultural fields are present in all distance zones and alternate with larger stands of trees and rural residential properties. Colors in the landscape include green grasses, tan agricultural fields, mixed shades of green in the trees, | Regularly spaced mitigation evergreen plantings will also appear skylined where a brief line of sight to the panel area occurs. Existing trees along the roadway will remain and will screen the view of solar panels in this area from the roadway. The large trees in the foreground have strong vertical lines, are darker green in color and taller than the solar panels and dominate the view. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Modifications to the natural landscape include the paved, two-lane road, existing electrical distribution and transmission lines, homes/outbuildings/barns, a tall smokestack, and agricultural fields. Many of these elements introduce tall, regularly spaced vertical elements into the landscape. Grey metal, wood, and red and white painted elements are visible. | The solar panels appear fully screened by mitigation shrubs and trees, especially at the viewing distance from the highway. The security fence around the solar facility is also mostly screened. The facility substation east of the arrays contains several taller vertical elements, including a sound wall that will be momentarily visible from Lake Road. However, the substation is backdropped by existing mature vegetation, lessening its visual impact, and will be seen in the context of the other existing utility infrastructure and so is not anticipated to introduce great contrast. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 1.66 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-2B | **Reviewers Name:** J. Chester |
| **Location:** NY-18/Lake Road Loc. 2 | **Date:** 8/18/22 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 100 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Transportation Corridor |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☒<br>*Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Moderate | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

Views north of Lake Road are completely obstructed by dense vegetation consisting of mixed coniferous and deciduous trees in a flat landscape. The view south of Lake Road is open to a large agricultural field bounded by stands of trees on either side and in the background. Residential properties exist on either side of the agricultural field and views of the field are screened by trees around the homes. An existing overhead electric distribution line runs along the south side of the roadway and is often backdropped by trees.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Terrain is flat with no visible waterbodies. A strong horizontal line exists where the agricultural field and tree line meet. | Major grading activities are not anticipated in this area and therefore impacts to the landform is not anticipated. The solar panels will appear in the foreground through background and generally follow the flat terrain and will appear darker in color than the bare agricultural field or crops. | 4 |
| Vegetation | The immediate foreground is absent dense vegetation and views are unobstructed. Tall stands of trees exist to the sides of the view and in the background, appear solid and dark green in color when leaves are present on deciduous trees and dark green and brown when leaves are off. The tree line creates a strong horizontal line against the sky. | Solar panels in this area are anticipated to occupy the agricultural field and will extend from approximately 100 feet from the road towards the middle and background distance zones. Some smaller areas of trees may need to be removed for solar panel placement and the crops in the agricultural field will be replaced with rows of regularly spaced solar panels. The linear geometric pattern introduced by the rows of solar panels will be somewhat like the rows of crops during growing season although more regular in appearance. The solar panels will be backdropped by tall trees in the distance. | 4 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Other than the agricultural field electric distribution line, and roadway, few human-made modifications to the natural landscape are visible in the immediate foreground. The natural treed landscape is interspersed with the rural agricultural setting. | The solar panels will introduce strong, dark, geometric shapes and vertical elements into a somewhat natural setting. The solar panels will, at times, appear dark grey in color, and contrast with brighter green surrounding vegetation. Although the regular row spacing of the solar panels will be like the rows of crops, the panels will be taller and have crisp edges and appear less natural than crop cover. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 12 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 4 |

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

**Proposed Mitigation:**

Landscape screening (coniferous trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed between the Facility and Lake Road. The plant material will provide immediate screening in the foreground which will increase in size over several growing seasons, further screening views from the roadway. The addition of landscape screening will provide a more natural element closer to the viewer, provide a visual break along the Facility edge, thereby reducing contrast with the surrounding area.

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Terrain is flat with no visible waterbodies. A strong horizontal line exists where the agricultural field and tree line meet. | Major grading activities are not anticipated in this area and therefore impacts to the landform is not anticipated. The solar panels, although partly screened by the mitigation plantings, will appear briefly in the foreground through background and generally follow the flat terrain. Where the panels can be seen between the mitigation plantings, they will appear darker in color than the bare agricultural field or crops. | 4 |
| Vegetation | The immediate foreground is absent dense vegetation and views are unobstructed. Tall stands of trees exist to the sides of the view and in the background, appear solid and dark green in color when leaves are present on deciduous trees and dark green and brown when leaves are off. The tree line creates a strong horizontal line against the sky. | Solar panels in this area are anticipated to occupy the agricultural field and will extend from approximately 100 feet from the road towards the middle and background distance zones. Some smaller areas of trees may need to be removed for solar panel placement and the crops in the agricultural field will be replaced with rows of regularly spaced solar panels. The solar panels will be backdropped by tall trees in the distance. Mitigation plantings will include a variety of evergreen trees spaced evenly along the roadway, with deciduous shrubs placed in front, which will combine to partially screen views of the panels from the road. The plantings in the foreground will reduce some of the visual contrast created by the panels. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Other than the agricultural field electric distribution line, and roadway, few human-made modifications to the natural landscape are visible in the immediate foreground. The natural treed landscape is interspersed with the rural agricultural setting. | The solar panels are partly screened by mitigation plantings, but still be visible between the growing trees. Where the panels are seen, they will introduce strong, dark, geometric shapes and vertical elements into a somewhat natural setting. The solar panels will, at times, appear dark grey in color, and contrast with brighter green surrounding vegetation. Although the regular row spacing of the solar panels will be like the rows of crops, the panels will be taller and have crisp edges and appear less natural than crop cover. | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 10 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3.33 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-3 | | | **Reviewers Name:** J. Chester | |
| **Location:** Hartland Road | | | **Date:** 8/18/22 | |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 50 feet | | | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Transportation Corridor | |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | | | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐<br>*Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☒ | |
| **Type of User:** Residents; Through Travelers | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
| | *User Expectation:* Low | *Duration of View:* Low | *Use Volume:* Low (Residents) Low (Through Travelers) | *Overall Sensitivity:* Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The terrain in the immediate foreground is flat, sloping upward in the middleground where a large berm associated with the Somerset power generation facility rises approximately 100' from the elevation of Hartland Road. The upper portion of the smokestack is visible above/beyond the berm, a dense stand of trees is located to the side of the berm, and an agricultural field exists closest to the viewer.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | No visible waterbodies. An approximately 100-foot-tall berm is present in the middleground and blocks views of the background (including Lake Ontario). In the foreground and around the berm, the terrain is flat. The agricultural field introduces strong horizontal lines where it meets a stand of trees and the grassy ditch adjacent to Hartland Road. The berm appears grass-covered and bright green in color, the agricultural field appears tan when not planted and green when crops cover the area. | Major grading activities are not anticipated in this area and therefore impacts to the landform is not anticipated. The solar panels will generally follow the flat or gently sloping terrain and will be backdropped by the berm and trees beyond. The dark grey color of the solar panels will contrast with the bright green of the berm and trees behind. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Low grasses are located immediately adjacent to Hartland Road, with an agricultural field in the foreground, and dense trees and a grassy berm in the middle to background. The berm appears grass-covered and bright green in color, the trees appear dark green and brown when leaf off and brighter green when leaves are present, and the agricultural field appears tan when not planted and green when crops cover the area. | Solar panels will replace the agricultural field with limited vegetation removal anticipated in the distance where the access drive will enter on the west side of the field. The dark grey color of the solar panels will contrast with the bright green color of the roadside grasses and berm backdrop but will contrast lest with the darker green and brown appearance of the trees in the distance. The vertical elements of the fence posts and solar panels will be seen in context of the smokestack and vertical trees and contrast will be less when leaves are off and the linear tree trunks and limbs are visible. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Rural residential properties are located on the east side of Hartland Road. Hartland Road is a narrow, two-lane paved road with an overhead electrical distribution line located on the west side. A portion of the smokestack and berm associated with the power plant are visible to the west. Agricultural fields are located on both sides of Hartland Road and are interspersed with rural residential properties and stands of trees. Existing vertical towers are visible to the east of Hartland Road. | The solar panels will appear as geometric shapes on vertical posts backdropped by a berm and tall trees. The wood fence posts of the security fence surrounding the solar panels will appear similar in color and vertical form of the adjacent electric distribution line and smokestack in the distance. As the Facility is not anticipated to be skylined and will be viewed in the context of some modifications to the natural environment, including other electrical infrastructure, contrast is not anticipated to be significant. | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 9 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3 |

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

**Proposed Mitigation:**

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to NY-18/Lake Road, Haight Road, and Hartland Road. Landscaping proposed will be a mix of regularly spaced coniferous (evergreen) trees and denser plantings of shrubs. The proposed trees will initially provide a visual break from the strong horizontal lines of the solar panels and screen some of the solar panels. As they mature, the trees will screen more of the panels from adjacent viewers. The dense shrub plantings will immediately screen the lower portion of the solar panels, including the vertical posts. The proposed mitigation will provide screening and visual breaks from the geometric form of the solar panels.

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | No visible waterbodies. An approximately 100-foot-tall berm is present in the middleground and blocks views of the background (including Lake Ontario). In the foreground and around the berm, the terrain is flat. The agricultural field introduces strong horizontal lines where it meets a stand of trees and the grassy ditch adjacent to Hartland Road. The berm appears grass-covered and bright green in color, the agricultural field appears tan when not planted and green when crops cover the area. | Major grading activities are not anticipated in this area and therefore impacts to the landform is not anticipated. The solar panels will generally follow the flat or gently sloping terrain and will be backdropped by the berm and trees beyond. The dark grey color of the solar panels will contrast with the bright green of the berm and trees behind. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Low grasses are located immediately adjacent to Hartland Road, with an agricultural field in the foreground, and dense trees and a grassy berm in the middle to background. The berm appears grass-covered and bright green in color, the trees appear dark green and brown when leaf off and brighter green when leaves are present, and the agricultural field appears tan when not planted and green when crops cover the area. | Solar panels will replace the agricultural field with limited vegetation removal anticipated in the distance where the access drive will enter on the west side of the field. Mitigation plantings in the immediate foreground will screen most views of the panels and will reduce the visual contrast the panels create. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Rural residential properties are located on the east side of Hartland Road. Hartland Road is a narrow, two-lane paved road with an overhead electrical distribution line located on the west side. A portion of the smokestack and berm associated with the power plant are visible to the west. Agricultural fields are located on both sides of Hartland Road and are interspersed with rural residential properties and stands of trees. Existing vertical towers are visible to the east of Hartland Road. | With mitigation planting, the solar panels will be almost fully screened from view from the road. Where the top portions of panels are visible, they appear as geometric shapes backdropped by a berm and tall trees. The wood fence posts of the security fence surrounding the solar panels will appear similar in color and vertical form of the adjacent electric distribution line and smokestack in the distance. As the Facility is not anticipated to be skylined and will be viewed in the context of some modifications to the natural environment, including other electrical infrastructure, contrast is not anticipated to be significant. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-5 | | | **Reviewers Name:** J. Chester | | |
| **Location:** Haight Road Residential | | | **Date:** 8/19/22 | | |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 70 feet | | | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agriculture | | |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | | | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☒<br>*Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐<br>*Skylined* ☒ *Completely* ☐ | | |
| **Type of User:**<br>Residents;<br>Through Travelers | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | | |
| | *User Expectation:*<br>Moderate | *Duration of View:*<br>High | *Use Volume:*<br>Low | *Overall Sensitivity:*<br>Moderate | |

**Description of Existing View:**
The view north of Haight Road is of an open, somewhat geometrically shaped agricultural field in the foreground and middleground. The field is surrounded to the east, north, and west by large, dense stands of mixed tree types. In the distance, the smokestack associated with Somerset power station is mostly visible above the trees. The view in this direction is primarily of a rural agrarian landscape composed of rectangular fields interspersed with stands of trees. The tall linear form of the light-colored smokestack is noticeable among the more natural forms of trees and crops. To the south of Haight Road is a residential property with densely planted trees along all sides with an open view from the driveway and front portion of the property to the north towards the agricultural field. An existing overhead electric distribution line runs along the north side of Haight Road, and to the residence on the south, and is comprised of single wood poles, regularly spaced, and medium brown in color.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The area is flat with no noticeable hills or valleys. Lake Ontario is not visible from this location and no other waterbodies can be seen. | Significant grading is not anticipated in this area to accommodate the placement of the solar panels. The solar panels will occupy the agricultural field area and no impacts to landforms are anticipated. The low, vertical, regular geometric shape of the solar panels and security fencing will follow the contours of the land but may be skylined where tall vegetation is in the background at a greater distance away. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation in the area consists of agricultural fields that appear tan/brown to bright green during the growing season, bordered by stands of tall, deciduous and coniferous trees which appear dark brown and linear when leaves are of and more of a solid green horizontal form when leaves are present. | Some vegetation along the edges of the agricultural field may be removed and replaced with the Facility but the solar panels will generally replace the crops planted in the field and will be located in the foreground and middleground. The solar panels and fencing will be taller than the crops and will have some of the regular linear forms of the planted crop rows. The solar panels will appear dark grey and may contrast somewhat with the surrounding green vegetation during the growing season and contrast less with the tans and dark browns outside of the growing season. The vertical solar panel supports and fence posts will be partially visible and viewed in the context of other vertical elements such as tree trunks and limbs, power line poles, and the smokestack in the distance. Views of the facility would be screened for travelers by stands of trees on either side until more directly adjacent to the Facility driving on the road. A home across the street may have direct unobstructed views from some locations on the property. | 4 |

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Human-Made Modifications | Haight Road is a paved two-lane road that generally runs east to west along the southern boundary of the Facility. Rural residential and agricultural properties are located on the north and south side of the roadway. An existing overhead electric transmission line runs along the north side of Haight Road and a smokestack is visible to the north in the background. | The Facility would introduce additional human-made modifications into a characteristically rural agrarian landscape. The solar panels and fencing would replicate some of the existing vertical forms (distribution line, trees, smokestack) but may also introduce contrast due to the varying color, strong lines and geometric edges and massing of the Facility. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 8 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3.67 |

**Proposed Mitigation:**

Landscape screening (evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the southern boundary between the Facility and Haight Road. The plant material will provide a visual break from the strong linear forms by screening with natural shapes and textures. The trees will continue to grow over time and will further screen the facility from travelers on the road and a residence located across Haight Road. The shrubs will screen the lower portion of the Facility and provide visual interest which reduces contract with the surrounding landscape.

**CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2]**

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The area is flat with no noticeable hills or valleys. Lake Ontario is not visible from this location and no other waterbodies can be seen. | Significant grading is not anticipated in this area to accommodate the placement of the solar panels. The solar panels will occupy the agricultural field area and no impacts to landforms are anticipated. Mitigation plantings fully screen the solar panels from view, but also eliminate the view into the distance. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation in the area consists of agricultural fields that appear tan/brown to bright green during the growing season, bordered by stands of tall, deciduous and coniferous trees which appear dark brown and linear when leaves are of and more of a solid green horizontal form when leaves are present. | Some vegetation along the edges of the agricultural field may be removed and replaced with the Facility but the solar panels will generally replace the crops planted in the field and will be located in the foreground and middleground. Mitigation plantings, including evergreen trees evenly spaced with deciduous shrubs placed in front, will be seen in the foreground and fully screen the solar panels from view. Where the agricultural fencing will be taller than the mitigation plantings, the wood posts and top of the fence panels will appear skylined. Views of the facility would be screened for travelers by stands of trees on either side until more directly adjacent to the Facility driving on the road. A home across the street may have direct unobstructed views from some locations on the property. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Haight Road is a paved two-lane road that generally runs east to west along the southern boundary of the Facility. Rural residential and agricultural properties are located on the north and south side of the roadway. An existing overhead electric transmission line runs along the north side of Haight Road and a smokestack is visible to the north in the background. | Mitigation plantings will be seen in the foreground and fully screen the solar panels from view, greatly reducing visual contrast. The agricultural style fence will be partially visible and skylined until mitigation plantings grow large enough to completely obscure it. Until then, it would not present a lot of visual contrast. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-15 | **Reviewers Name:** P. Fell |
| **Location:** Russel's U Pick Blueberry Farm | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 50 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agriculture |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☒ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers | High | Low | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is rural; dominated by green turf and mixed deciduous brush along the edge of the existing two-lane rural highway. The terrain is level into the distance. The highway (Lake Road) creates a clear view corridor into the distance to the east, otherwise the view is limited to the immediate foreground by vegetation. Partial views of a cleared agricultural field abutting Lake Road in the background can be assumed by the contrast in color: the low clipped crop is yellow golden color. The Somerset Powerplant exhaust tower is partly visible in the middleground, skylined behind the brush to the northeast. A single metal utility pole can be seen in the middleground next to the highway. No view of Lake Ontario is present, screened by vegetation.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform is flat in the foreground/middleground. No views of Lake Ontario are present. | No proposed grading is shown. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Dense large shrubs and small deciduous trees are clustered along Lake Road, the green color and textures dominate the foreground view. Green turf covers the ground along the roadside. | Existing low growing trees and shrubs are removed to install solar panels in uniform rows along the roadway. Large structures in the background are revealed: more of the powerplant exhaust tower becomes visible. The recognizable form and colors of the large red barn behind the Babcock House is revealed, as is the blocky form of the upper portion of the powerplant main building in the background. | 4 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The flat grey band of the Lake Road Highway is the primary built feature, followed in dominance by the Somerset Powerplant exhaust stack (planned by others for future removal) and silver utility pole. | Solar panels appear in uniform rows as dark gray gridded bands and geometric shapes in the foreground parallel to Lake Road, behind evenly spaced wooden posts. | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 9 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscape screening (mixed evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the Facility where it is adjacent to Lake Road. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 5 to 10 or more years) screen most of the PV panels from viewers along Lake Road. There are no existing residences south of Lake Road at this location that would have introduced Facility views. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by the proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the landscape is installed) and mostly to fully screened after approximately 10 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed landscape mitigation will over time reduce visibility of the Facility as seen from Lake Road.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform is flat in the foreground/middleground. No views of Lake Ontario are present. | No proposed grading is shown. With the landscape screening installed in the foreground, the expanded sky view above the Facility solar panels becomes reduced. The hedgerow style landscaping complements the flat, straight rural highway. | 1 |
| Vegetation | Dense large shrubs and small deciduous trees are clustered along Lake Road, the green color and textures dominate the foreground view. Green turf covers the ground along the roadside. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field but are mostly screened from this view by mitigation plantings. The dark evergreen trees and orderly row of plantings appear harmonious with the surrounding vegetation, and the deciduous shrubs in the foreground add color and visual interest. Over time, the installed trees would be expected to grow large enough to fully screen views of the solar panels, creating a dense screen of vegetation at this location along Lake Road. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The flat grey band of the Lake Road Highway is the primary built feature, followed in dominance by the Somerset Powerplant exhaust stack and silver utility pole. | Solar panels can be seen but do not dominate the view because they are mostly screened by mitigation plantings. The Facility perimeter fence is almost totally screened from view by the mitigation plantings. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint B | **Reviewers Name:** P Fell |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; ¼ mi offshore | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 1,400 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply — *Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☒ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and | Moderate | High | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From viewpoint B, located ¼ mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The simple combination of water, vegetated shoreline, and sky comprises this view. The open blue water of Lake Ontario is dominant, and would surround the viewer to the north, east and west. Landform appears fairly level onshore, but a steep slope from the mainland to the lake is apparent. | No proposed grading is visible. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Mixed evergreen and deciduous trees cover the bank slope and across some of the top of the shoreline. | Gaps in the shoreline vegetation and some canopy removal behind the bank is recognized, but the shoreline remains covered in dense mixed trees and shrubs. The impression of a tree-covered shoreline along the lake front is maintained. | 1 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human made modifications are not immediately noticeable. Upon careful review, the top of a wooden 'H-frame' electrical pole can be seen above the treetops, though it is almost totally screened from view by the trees. | A few narrow gaps in the vegetation cover reveal small views of solar panels. At a distance of 1.4 mile, however, the solar panels appear very small and do not attract attention. Because the solar panels are well screened behind the preserved vegetation, they are very inconspicuous. | 1 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0.66 |

### Mitigation:

As seen ¼ mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint B would not result in visual impacts, because the level of change is so inconspicuous. No mitigation for visual effects would be required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint G | **Reviewers Name:** P Fell |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; ¼ mi offshore | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 1,400 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☒ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and commercial vessel crew | Moderate | Low-Moderate | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From Lake viewpoint G, located ¼ mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Open waters of Lake Ontario dominate the view. Water appears moderately smooth. The onshore landform visible across the middleground is level above the bank which slopes downward toward the lake. Very narrow strips of exposed sandy soil, pale brown in color, can be seen at the shoreline. | No proposed grading is visible. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Mixed evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs cover the bank slope and across the top of the flat shoreline. | No changes to the existing vegetation are seen. | 0 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human made modifications are not noticeable from Lake Viewpoint G. Natural features dominate the view. | The Somerset Solar Facility cannot be seen from Lake Viewpoint G, because it is fully screened by existing vegetation. | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0 |

### Mitigation:

As seen ¼ mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint G would not result in visual impacts, because the Facility is not visible. No mitigation for visual effects are required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint J | **Reviewers Name:** P Fell |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; 1/2 mi offshore | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 2,700 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☒ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and commercial vessel crew | Moderate | Low-Moderate | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From viewpoint J, located 1/2 mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface. Behind the vegetated shoreline, the rounded and smooth grassy surface of the capped landfill mounds rise approximately 100 ft. above the tree canopy.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The simple combination of water, vegetated shoreline, and sky comprises this view. The open blue water of Lake Ontario is dominant, and would surround the viewer to the north, east and west. Landform appears fairly level onshore, but a steep slope from the mainland to the lake is apparent. | No proposed grading is visible. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Mixed evergreen and deciduous trees cover the bank slope and across some of the top of the shoreline. | No vegetation changes are visible. | 0 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human made modifications are not immediately noticeable. Upon careful review, the top of a wooden 'H-frame' electrical pole can be seen above the treetops, though it is almost totally screened from view by the trees. | The solar Facility is not visible because it is screened by the existing vegetation along the lake shore. | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0 |

### Mitigation:

As seen 1/2 mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint J would not result in visual impacts, because the Somerset Solar Facility cannot be seen. No mitigation for visual effects is required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-1A | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** Babcock House Museum | **Date:** 8/18/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 300 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Rural/Agricultural |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Moderate | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to gently rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. Vegetation includes a large patch of green trimmed grass and green agricultural fields in the foreground with a few large evergreen trees placed sporadically throughout the area. The middleground includes a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees lining the periphery of the large grass/agricultural area. Human-made features include a powerline at the edge of the grass field near the trees as well as two red barns in the foreground. Overall, from this location the Facility is likely to create moderate contrast.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landscape is fairly flat to gently rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a large patch of green trimmed grass and green agricultural fields in the foreground with a few large evergreen trees placed sporadically throughout the area. The middleground includes a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees lining the periphery of the large grass/agricultural area. | Rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing are added to the green grass/agricultural field which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Darker vegetation in the middleground is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include a powerline at the edge of the grass field near the trees as well as two red barns in the foreground. | The solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks. This color contrast does not appear as significant because of the darker line of vegetation that runs along the horizon. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 8 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.7 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to NY-18/Lake Road, and surrounding the Babcock House site. From this viewing location, evergreen trees and bushes spaced evenly apart are proposed to assist in screening the Facility from this location. The trees provide a break from the continuous horizontal line. Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landscape is fairly flat to gently rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a large patch of green trimmed grass and green agricultural fields in the foreground with a few large evergreen trees placed sporadically throughout the area. The middleground includes a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees lining the periphery of the large grass/agricultural area. | Proposed landscaping screens most views of the solar panels. Rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing are added to the green grass/agricultural field which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Darker vegetation in the middleground is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include a powerline at the edge of the grass field near the trees as well as two red barns in the foreground. | The solar panels are mostly screened by proposed landscaping, but where visible, the solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks. This color contrast does not appear as significant because of the darker line of vegetation that runs along the horizon. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-2A | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** NY-18/Lake Road Loc. 1 | **Date:** 8/18/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 0.1 mi. | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Transportation Corridor |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☒ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Moderate | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by fairly flat ground to gently rolling hills in the foreground, middleground, and background. Lake Ontario can be seen in the background along the horizon. Vegetation includes a horizontal strip of grass in the foreground, a horizontal strip of tilled soil beyond the grass, with another strip of grass in the middleground. The middleground and background includes various evergreen and deciduous trees along the horizon. Human-made features include the paved road from this location. Overall, from this location the Facility is likely to create moderate contrast.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat ground to gently rolling hills in the foreground, middleground, and background. Lake Ontario can be seen in the background along the horizon. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. Most trees along the horizon and most views towards the lake would be blocked by solar panels and fencing. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a horizontal strip of grass in the foreground, a horizontal strip of tilled soil beyond the grass, with another strip of grass in the middleground. The middleground and background includes various evergreen and deciduous trees along the horizon. | Rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing are added to the green grass/agricultural field which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Darker vegetation in the middleground is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include the paved road from this view. | The solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks. This color contrast does not appear as significant because of the darker line of vegetation that runs along the horizon. | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 8 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.7 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to NY-18/Lake Road. From this viewing location, evergreen trees and bushes spaced evenly apart are proposed to assist in screening the Facility from this location. The trees provide a break from the continuous horizontal line. Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat ground to gently rolling hills in the foreground, middleground, and background. Lake Ontario can be seen in the background along the horizon. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. Most trees along the horizon and most views towards the lake would be blocked by solar panels and fencing. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a horizontal strip of grass in the foreground, a horizontal strip of tilled soil beyond the grass, with another strip of grass in the middleground. The middleground and background includes various evergreen and deciduous trees along the horizon. | Proposed landscaping effectively screens views of solar panels. Darker vegetation in the middleground is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include the paved road from this view. | The solar panels are screened from view by proposed landscaping. Substation facility, including vertical metal structures and the sound wall are briefly visible. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 7 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.33 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-2B | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** NY-18/Lake Road Loc. 2 | **Date:** 8/18/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 100 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Developed |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐<br>*Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Moderate | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to gently rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. Vegetation includes a patch of green grass in the foreground with a large patch of tilled brown soil beyond. The middleground includes a dense stand of mixed evergreen and deciduous trees around the perimeter of the agricultural field. Human-made features are not shown from this location. Overall, from this location the Facility is likely to create moderate-strong contrast.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to gently rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a patch of green grass in the foreground with a large patch of tilled brown soil beyond. The middleground includes a dense stand of mixed evergreen and deciduous trees around the perimeter of the agricultural field. | Rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing are added to the agricultural field which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Darker (green) vegetation under the panels help subdue the contrast. The middleground vegetation is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive during leaf-on. During leaf-off the vegetation is lighter green creating more contrast with the darker panels. | 4 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features are not shown from this location. | The solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks. This color contrast does not appear as significant because of the darker line of vegetation that runs along the horizon. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 11 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3.6 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to NY-18/Lake Road. From this viewing location, evergreen trees and bushes spaced evenly apart are proposed to assist in screening the Facility from this location. The trees provide a break from the continuous horizontal line. Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to gently rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a patch of green grass in the foreground with a large patch of tilled brown soil beyond. The middleground includes a dense stand of mixed evergreen and deciduous trees around the perimeter of the agricultural field. | Rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing are added to the agricultural field which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Proposed landscaping in the foreground partially screens the solar panels and reduces contrast. The middleground vegetation is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive during leaf-on season. During leaf-off the vegetation is lighter green creating more contrast with the darker panels. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features are not shown from this location. | Although partly screened, the solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks. This color contrast does not appear as significant because of the darker line of vegetation that runs along the horizon. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 10 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3.33 |

**Proposed Mitigation:**

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to NY-18/Lake Road. From this viewing location, evergreen trees and bushes spaced evenly apart are proposed to assist in screening the Facility from this location. The trees provide a break from the continuous horizontal line. Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-3 | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** Hartland Road | **Date:** 8/18/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 50 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Transportation Corridor |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers | Low | Low | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Through Travelers) | Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. Vegetation includes a strip of green grass in the foreground adjacent to the road with a large patch of tilled brown soil beyond. A mixed group of deciduous and evergreen trees exist along the perimeter of the agricultural field and a hill with green grass extends into the middleground. Human-made features include a smokestack prominent on the hill and the paved road. Overall, from this location the Facility is likely to create moderate-strong contrast.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. The landform beyond the panels remains intact. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a strip of green grass in the foreground adjacent to the road with a large patch of tilled brown soil beyond. A mixed group of deciduous and evergreen trees exist along the perimeter of the agricultural field and a hill with green grass extends into the middleground. | Rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing are added to the agricultural field which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Darker (green) vegetation under the panels help subdue the contrast. The middleground vegetation and green hill is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive during leaf-on. | 4 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include a smokestack prominent on the hill and the paved road. | The solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks. This color contrast does not appear as significant because of the darker line of vegetation that runs along the horizon. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 11 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3.6 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to Hartland Road. From this viewing location, evergreen trees and bushes spaced evenly apart are proposed to assist in screening the Facility from this location. The trees provide a break from the continuous horizontal line. Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. The landform beyond the panels remains intact. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a strip of green grass in the foreground adjacent to the road with a large patch of tilled brown soil beyond. A mixed group of deciduous and evergreen trees exist along the perimeter of the agricultural field and a hill with green grass extends into the middleground. | Proposed landscaping in the foreground mostly screens the solar panels and reduces contrast. Where visible, rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing are added to the agricultural field. The middleground vegetation and green hill is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive during leaf-on. During leaf off, more visibility of the solar panels and fencing occurs. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include a smokestack prominent on the hill and the paved road. | Although partly screened, the solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks. This color contrast does not appear as significant because of the darker line of vegetation that runs along the horizon. | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 8 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.6 |

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-5 | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** Haight Road Residential | **Date:** 8/18/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 70 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agriculture |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply — *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| Type of User: | Visual Sensitivity: | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers | Moderate | High | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**
The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. Vegetation includes a large rectangular patch of golden agricultural fields in the foreground with a mixed group of deciduous and evergreen trees along the perimeter of the agricultural field. Human-made features include a smokestack prominent in the view. Overall, from this location the Facility is likely to create moderate contrast.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. The landform beyond the panels remains intact. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a large rectangular patch of golden agricultural fields in the foreground with a mixed group of deciduous and evergreen trees along the perimeter of the agricultural field. | Rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing are added to the agricultural field which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Darker (green) vegetation under the panels help subdue the contrast. The middleground vegetation and green hill is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive during leaf-on. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include a smokestack prominent in the view. | The solar panels will appear as linear, geometric blocks. This color contrast does not appear as significant because of the darker line of vegetation that runs along the horizon. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 9 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to Haight Road. From this viewing location, evergreen trees and bushes spaced evenly apart are proposed to assist in screening the Facility from this location. The trees provide a break from the continuous horizontal line. Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to rolling hills in the foreground and middleground. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. The landform beyond the panels remains intact. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a large rectangular patch of golden agricultural fields in the foreground with a mixed group of deciduous and evergreen trees along the perimeter of the agricultural field. | Proposed landscaping in the foreground fully screens the solar panels and reduces contrast. Wood and metal mesh fencing is visible above the proposed landscaping and is partly skylined. The middleground vegetation and green hill is still visible from this location which makes the panels appear less obtrusive during leaf-on. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include a smokestack prominent in the view. | Proposed landscaping in the foreground fully screens the solar panels and reduces contrast. Wood and metal mesh fencing is visible above the proposed landscaping and is partly skylined, but is highly compatible with the landscape setting. | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 7 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.3 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-15 | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** Russel's U Pick Blueberry Farm | **Date:** 8/1/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 50 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agriculture |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☒ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers | Moderate | Low | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is rural; dominated by green turf and mixed deciduous brush along the edge of the existing two-lane rural highway. The terrain is level into the distance. The highway (Lake Road) creates a clear view corridor into the distance to the east, otherwise the view is limited to the immediate foreground by vegetation. Partial views of a cleared agricultural field abutting Lake Road in the background can be assumed by the contrast in color: the low clipped crop is yellow golden color. The Somerset Powerplant exhaust tower is partly visible in the middleground, skylined behind the brush to the northeast. A single metal utility pole can be seen in the middleground next to the highway. No view of Lake Ontario is present, screened by vegetation.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The landscape is fairly flat in the foreground and middleground. No views of water are present. | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. The landform beyond the panels would remain intact. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a strip of green grass in the foreground adjacent to the road. A mixed group of bushes and deciduous trees exist beyond the grass. Intermittent views of the middleground include deciduous trees and bushes. | Vegetation would be removed adjacent to the roadway to install rows of dark gray solar panels and fencing in the foreground. Opening this view introduces a clearer view of the vertical exhaust stack, as well as several blocky buildings which were existing previously, but views were blocked by the foreground vegetation. | 4 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include a swath of the paved road (Lake Road Highway) in the foreground as well as a partial view of an exhaust stack and a utility pole adjacent to the paved road. | The solar panels will appear as linear, uniform, geometric blocks in the foreground parallel to the paved road. Existing features can be seen in the foreground and middleground (exhaust stack, utility pole, and buildings). | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 9 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscape screening (mixed evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the Facility where it is adjacent to Lake Road. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 5 to 10 or more years) screen most of the PV panels from viewers along Lake Road. There are no existing residences south of Lake Road at this location that would have introduced Facility views. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by the proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the landscape is installed) and mostly to fully screened after approximately 10 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed landscape mitigation will over time reduce visibility of the Facility as seen from Lake Road.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | | Rows of solar panels and fencing would be present in this location; however, no grading is anticipated. The landform beyond the panels would remain intact. Landscape screening would not include grading. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Vegetation includes a strip of green grass in the foreground adjacent to the road. A mixed group of bushes and deciduous trees exist beyond the grass. Intermittent views of the middleground include deciduous trees and bushes. | Landscaping is proposed along the Facility boundary where it is adjacent to Lake Road Highway. From this viewing location, evergreen trees and bushes spaced evenly apart are proposed to assist in screening the Facility. The trees provide a break from the continuous horizontal line. Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time as the vegetation grows larger. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include a swath of the paved road (Lake Road Highway) in the foreground as well as a partial view of an exhaust stack and a utility pole adjacent to the paved road. | The solar panels will appear as linear, uniform, geometric blocks in the foreground parallel to the paved road. Existing features can be seen in the foreground and middleground (exhaust stack, utility pole, and buildings). | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint B | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; ¼ mi offshore | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 1,400 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐<br>*Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☒<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and commercial vessel crew | Moderate | High | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From viewpoint B, located ¼ mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to sloping land which is elevated above the water in the foreground. Water (Lake Ontario) dominates the view and appears slightly choppy. | No grading is anticipated. The landform would remain intact. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Along the shoreline, a dense cover of deciduous trees and bushes with intermittent areas of grass cover the sloping land. | Some tree clearing would occur behind the vegetated row of dense deciduous trees and bushes. Several small gaps allow slight views of the solar panels where areas look dark and straight, however, are not obvious. | 1 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features include an H-frame transmission line pole rising above the dense vegetation. | The solar panels are difficult to decipher in this view, there are several breaks in vegetation the area appears dark and straight due to the uniform linear feature of the panels. | 1 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0.66 |

### Mitigation:

As seen ¼ mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint B would not result in visual impacts, because the level of change is inconspicuous. No mitigation for visual effects would be required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint G | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; ¼ mi offshore | **Date:** 8/1/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 1,400 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☒ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and commercial vessel crew | Moderate | Low-Moderate | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**
Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From Lake viewpoint G, located ¼ mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to rolling hills with some sloping land towards the water in the foreground. Narrow bands of light brown colored sand and dirt can be seen. Water (Lake Ontario) dominates the view and appears slightly choppy. | No grading is anticipated. The landform would remain intact. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Along the shoreline, a dense cover of deciduous trees and bushes with intermittent areas of hills covered in grass cover the sloping land. | The Facility cannot be seen from this location. | 0 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human-made features are not visible from this location. | The Facility cannot be seen from this location. | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0 |

### Mitigation:

As seen ¼ mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint G would not result in visual impacts, because the Facility is not visible. No mitigation for visual effects are required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint L | **Reviewers Name:** S. Brooks |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; 1 mi offshore to the north | **Date:** 8/1/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 1 mile | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☒ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and commercial vessel crew | Moderate | Low-Moderate | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From Lake viewpoint L, located 1 mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface. Behind the vegetated shoreline, the rounded and smooth grassy surface of the capped landfill mounds rise approximately 100 ft. above the tree canopy.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | The landscape is characterized by fairly flat to rolling hills with some sloping land towards the water in the foreground. Water (Lake Ontario) dominates the view and appears slightly choppy. | No grading is anticipated. The landform would remain intact. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Along the shoreline, a dense cover of deciduous trees and bushes are visible with areas of rolling hills covered in grass beyond the band of trees. | The Facility cannot be seen from this location. | 0 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The upper forms of the largest features of the Somerset powerplant are prominently visible behind the band of trees and bushes. The upper parts of numerous overhead electrical poles can also be discerned above the treetops in the distance. | Despite being technically visible among the trees, solar panels are not identifiable at this distance. | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0 |

### Mitigation:

As seen 1 mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint L would not result in visual impacts, because the Somerset Solar Facility cannot be perceived. No mitigation for visual effects is required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-01A | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Babcock House Museum | **Date:** 8/15/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 300 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agricultural |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Moderate-Low | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by flat terrain covered by green lawn, with open green fields in the foreground to the west, north, and east. Patches of mixed woodlands can be seen at various distances to the west into the middleground. Two small red barn like storage sheds are prominent features in the foreground, and an overhead utility line can be seen in the distance. The Babcock House Museum site includes several mature landscape trees, and two evergreen trees are present in the foreground. Overall, the strong horizontal line of the horizon and the two small sheds create a strongly rural scene.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform is flat in the foreground/middleground. Very limited locations from the Babcock House Museum site (not pictured) have a line of sight to Lake Ontario, especially during winter months. | Long row of panels and fencing appears consistent and compatible with flat, open field behind the sheds. No grading is shown at this location. | 1 |
| Vegetation | Mixed vegetation (shown during leaf-off conditions) limits the view across the background horizon. Mature evergreen trees in the foreground contribute variety in form, color and texture, as well as a 'frame' across the top of the view. Overall, the Babcock House site contains several mature landscape trees which block outward views. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field low-grasses which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grasses. Woodland vegetation in the middleground is somewhat screened by row of panels, but still visible above them across the backdrop. Seasonal change assumed to occur in the agricultural field (crop growth, maturation, harvest) would be altered by the presence of fixed equipment. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The most prominent features are the two barn like sheds, which appear well kept and characteristically agrarian. Overall, the Babcock House site includes the house, a large barn, and four other smaller storage buildings clustered together at right angles like the two shown, all of which influence views outward from the site. | Solar panels appear as dark gray lines and geometric shapes in the middleground across the full visible horizon. Panels appear co-dominant with the foreground sheds, which remain the focus of the scene. The gray color of the panels differs from the earth-tone bright green field colors. Fencing is not prominent, but wood color appears harmonious with landscape. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 7 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.3 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscaping is proposed along the Facility where it is adjacent to the Babcock House site. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 5-10 years) screen most of the PV panels from viewers within the Babcock House site. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the plantings are installed) and mostly to fully screened after approximately 15 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed mitigation will over time reduce visibility and visual contrast of the Facility as viewed from Babcock House Museum site.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform is flat in the foreground/middleground. Very limited locations from the Babcock House Museum site (not pictured) have a line of sight to Lake Ontario, especially during winter months. | Long row of panels and fencing appears consistent and compatible with flat, open field behind the sheds. No grading is shown at this location. | 1 |
| Vegetation | Mixed vegetation (shown during leaf-off conditions) limits the view across the background horizon. Mature evergreen trees in the foreground contribute variety in form, color and texture, as well as a 'frame' across the top of the view. Overall, the Babcock House site contains several mature landscape trees which block outward views. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field low-grasses which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Where they are seen, texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grasses. Woodland vegetation in the middleground is somewhat screened by row of panels, but still visible above them across the backdrop. Linear row of dark green plantings along the field edge appears consistent with other hedgerows and vegetation. Seasonal change assumed to occur in the agricultural field (crop growth, maturation, harvest) would be altered by the presence of fixed equipment. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The most prominent features are the two barn like sheds, which appear well kept and characteristically agrarian. Overall, the Babcock House site includes the house, a large barn, and four other smaller storage buildings clustered together at right angles like the two shown, all of which influence views outward from the site. | Solar panels are mostly screened behind trees and shrubs and could be overlooked at first by casual observers. The top portion of the dark, horizontal panels can be seen over the row of planted shrubs. | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating with Landscape Mitigation Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating with Landscape Mitigation Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-1B | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Babcock House Museum, Seen from Lake Road | **Date:** 8/15/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 550 feet (from components shown) | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agricultural |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☒ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Moderate-Low | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by flat terrain covered by green lawn surrounding the Babcock house and a cultivated field of corn in the visible background beyond the house. Patches of mixed woodlands can be seen enclosing the view to the east into the middleground, behind the cultivated field. The classic architecture, form, lines and light beige colors and fine varying texture of the Babcock House, along with a small red shed dominate the view, balanced with a large walnut tree in the foreground. Looking due north, a narrow horizontal blue line of blue water (Lake Ontario) is visible across the background, behind the Babcock House, emphasizing the openness of the landscape. Mixed trees enclose the view as one turns to look east.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform is level to very gently rolling in the foreground/middleground. Limited locations from the Babcock House Museum site have a line of sight to Lake Ontario, especially during winter months. | No grading is shown at this location. Long row of panels and fencing appears across the field behind the house in the middle ground. Much of the Facility components are screened by large trees and structures on the Babcock House site. The horizontal forms and colors of the panels are somewhat compatible with the flatness of the land. | 2 |
| Vegetation | The large mature trees in the foreground – deciduous and conifer – are the dominant vegetative features, but the regular lines and fine textures of the green grass and cultivated corn field (seen during the summer season) contribute visual interest. During the winter season, the green grass and large trees forms and lines still dominate, but the defoliated canopies open the view to more blue sky. | Cultivated crops are replaced by solar panels in the fields behind Babcock House. Texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grain or corn. Woodland vegetation in the middleground is somewhat screened by row of panels, but still visible above them across the backdrop. Seasonal change assumed to occur in the agricultural field (crop growth, maturation, harvest) would be altered by the presence of fixed equipment. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The most prominent feature is the Babcock House itself. Seen in the foreground, the classic architecture and unique cobble texture is appealing and photogenic. | Solar panels appear as dark gray lines and geometric shapes partly screened in the middleground across the backdrop fields. Panels appear in the background and are subordinate to the historic structure, which remain the focus of the scene. The gray color of the panels differs from the earth-tone bright green field colors. Fencing is not prominent, but wood color appears harmonious with landscape. | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 8 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.7 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscaping is proposed around the Facility where it is adjacent to the Babcock House site. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 5-10 years) screen most of the PV panels from viewers looking at the Babcock House from Lake Road. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the plantings are installed) and fully screened after approximately 15 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed mitigation will over time reduce visibility and visual contrast of the Facility as viewed from Babcock House Museum.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform is level to very gently rolling in the foreground/middleground. Limited locations from the Babcock House Museum site have a line of sight to Lake Ontario, especially during winter months. | No grading is shown at this location. Long row of panels and fencing appears across the field behind the house in the middle ground. Much of the Facility components are screened by large trees and structures on the Babcock House site. The horizontal forms and colors of the panels are somewhat compatible with the flatness of the land. | 1 |
| Vegetation | The large mature trees in the foreground – deciduous and conifer – are the dominant vegetative features, but the regular lines and fine textures of the green grass and cultivated corn field (seen during the summer season) contribute visual interest. During the winter season, the green grass and large trees forms and lines still dominate, but the defoliated canopies open the view to more blue sky. | Initially, the young landscape plantings increase the busyness of visual objects seen across the background compared to the formerly simple form of the cultivated crop, and do not fully screen the solar arrays. With time though, 5 years following planting installation, the evergreen trees and shrubs come together, screening the solar arrays and appear similar to the existing dark green hedgerows seen in the distance. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The most prominent feature is the Babcock House itself. Seen in the foreground, the classic architecture and unique cobble texture is appealing and photogenic. | With time, the mitigation plantings fully screen the Facility from view, reducing its visual contrast as seen from this viewpoint. | 1 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating with Landscape Mitigation Total*** | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating with Landscape Mitigation Average*** | 1.7 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-2A | | | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie | | |
| **Location:** NY-18/Lake Road Loc. 1 | | | **Date:** 8/16/2022 | | |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 0.1 mi. | | | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Transportation Corridor | | |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | | | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☒<br>*Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐<br>*Skylined* ☒ *Completely* ☐ | | |
| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | | |
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* | |
| Residents; Through Travelers; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Moderate | |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by primarily level to very gently rolling terrain with an agricultural field visible behind taller grass in the foreground. During leaf-off conditions, when the agricultural field is bare or crops are very low, Lake Ontario is briefly just visible in the distance along the horizon. Vegetation, shown during leaf-off and leaf-on conditions, includes mature evergreen trees in the foreground which partially screen views into the middleground. Additional mixed woodlands are also present across the middleground horizon, continuing east and west of this view into the foreground where dense trees along the roadway limit views to the immediate foreground. Humanmade features include the roadway of NY-18 and the exhaust tower and light colored building at Somerset Powerplant. From this location, unpictured overhead utility lines are present along the roadway and seen to the east and west. A small light-colored security/entry building associated with the powerplant site can be seen in the middleground through the foreground vegetation.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform includes relatively flat to subtle slopes in the foreground and middleground.<br>Lake Ontario can be seen during leaf-off conditions as a thin blue band for a very brief moment along the horizon through this gap in the foreground trees. Views of the Lake would occur from this viewpoint seasonally, depending on the vegetation grown in the field. | Rows of panel, viewed parallel to the rows, can be seen in the middleground across the agricultural field. Panels appear as a low-profile element along most of the horizon and follow the gentle slope of the terrain. No apparent grading is seen in this view. As viewed from NY-18, the panels would mostly block existing views of Lake Ontario, with the lake being partially visible between the rows of panels. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Contiguous patches of mostly deciduous wooded areas in the middleground; small patches of trees located along the fields and along NY-18. Foreground evergreen trees in the foreground screen part of the view beyond. Agricultural fields change seasonally, as shown, from green vegetation to bare exposed earth. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field. Low green and gold grasses would be installed within the facility as part of the Project revegetation efforts. The texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grasses. A patch of mature deciduous trees in the middleground would be removed to install panels, enabling very slight skylining of the low-profile arrays along the terrain. A small number of individual deciduous trees in the middleground would also be removed to install the facility substation. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Two-lane roadway of NY-18 Lake Road is the dominant humanmade feature, in addition to overhead utility lines. | Solar panels appear as dark gray lines and geometric shapes across the middleground of the view. Wood fence elements appear compatible in color and form, although the short vertical lines become more prominent where the Facility is seen skylined against the sky, rather than blending into otherwise background woodlands. VP 2A is one of very limited opportunities to view the Facility substation, which would be located approximately 1,085 feet north of NY-18 and would be more visible to westbound travelers than eastbound due to the existing vegetation. Because the facility substation appears fully backdropped by dense woodlands, its forms, lines, and colors become subordinate in the view, especially when viewed during leaf-off conditions. Visual contrast from the light grey colored substation components may be slightly stronger during summer when seen against dark green foliage. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 7 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.3 |

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

**Proposed Mitigation:**

Landscape screening (evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the Facility where it is adjacent to NY-18. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 15 or more years) screen the majority of the PV panels from viewers along the road. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by the proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the landscape is installed) and mostly screened after approximately 15 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform includes relatively flat to subtle slopes in the foreground and middleground.<br>Lake Ontario can be seen during leaf-off conditions as a thin blue band for a very brief moment along the horizon through this gap in the foreground trees. Views of the Lake would occur from this viewpoint seasonally, depending on the vegetation grown in the field. | Rows of panel, viewed parallel to the rows, can be seen in the middleground across the agricultural field. Panels appear as a low-profile element along most of the horizon and follow the gentle slope of the terrain. No apparent grading is seen in this view. As viewed from NY-18, the panels would mostly block existing views of Lake Ontario, with the lake being partially visible between the rows of panels. | 1 |
| Vegetation | Contiguous patches of mostly deciduous wooded areas in the middleground; small patches of trees located along the fields and along NY-18. Foreground evergreen trees in the foreground screen part of the view beyond. Agricultural fields change seasonally, as shown, from green vegetation to bare exposed earth. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field. Low green and gold grasses would be installed within the facility as part of the Project revegetation efforts. The texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grasses. A patch of mature deciduous trees in the middleground would be removed to install panels, however the mitigation plantings mostly screen views of the panels. A small number of individual deciduous trees in the middleground would also be removed to install the facility substation. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Two-lane roadway of NY-18 Lake Road is the dominant humanmade feature, in addition to overhead utility lines. | Solar panels are almost fully screened behind trees and shrubs as seen from this distance and would likely be overlooked by most casual observers traveling along the highway. Portions of the dark, horizontal panels can be seen between the row of planted trees. The sound wall within the Facility Substation is the most noticeable feature, and mitigation trees would need additional time to fully screen the substation's taller elements like the sound wall. | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating with Landscape Mitigation Total*** | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating with Landscape Mitigation Average*** | 1.66 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-2B | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** NY-18/Lake Road Loc. 2 | **Date:** 8/17/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 100 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Transportation Corridor |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers; Tourists and Recreational Users | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Moderate-Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

The landscape is characterized by level terrain and views of a long, open field appearing to have new crop vegetation emerging. Low rolling hills can be seen in the background through the bare vegetation, which surrounds the open field to the south, east and west.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform is relatively flat in the foreground/middleground. Rolling hills are visible in the distance. | Distant hills are no longer visible from this location. No grading for the Facility is apparent in this view. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Contiguous patches of wooded areas in the middleground surrounding the cultivated field. Agricultural fields contain low grasses in the foreground and middleground. Colors associated with the vegetation include green and golds. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field and low growing vegetation is seen beneath the panels. Texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grasses. Vegetation in the middleground is no longer visible from this location. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The two-lane asphalt roadway of NY-18/Lake Road would be part of this view. Overhead utility lines (not pictured) are also preset along the highway to the south and would be seen by passing travelers. | Solar panels appear as dark gray lines and geometric shapes in the foreground. The gray color of the panels and light gray color of the fencing differs from the earth-tone golden and brown field colors. The low-lying dark browns and grays of the rolling vegetation/tress in the middleground have been replaced by the geometric shapes of the panels. The perimeter fence introduces short, uniform, ordered vertical lines (posts). | 4 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 10 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3.3 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscape screening (evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the Facility where it is adjacent to NY-18. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 15 or more years) screen the majority of the PV panels from viewers along the road. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by the proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the landscape is installed) and mostly screened after approximately 15 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform is relatively flat in the foreground/middleground. Low rolling hills are visible in the distance. | Distant hills are no longer visible from this location. No grading for the Facility is apparent in this view. | 3 |
| Vegetation | Contiguous patches of wooded areas in the middleground surrounding the cultivated field. Agricultural fields contain low grasses in the foreground and middleground. Colors associated with the vegetation include green and golds. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field and low growing vegetation is seen beneath the panels. Texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grasses. Mitigation plantings are seen in detail in the immediate foreground along the highway and appear highly compatible with the dark green vegetation masses seen in the distance. Flowering shrubs in the foreground add visual interest and color. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The two-lane asphalt roadway of NY-18/Lake Road would be part of this view. Overhead utility lines (not pictured) are also preset along the highway to the south and would be seen by passing travelers. | Solar panels appear as dark gray lines and geometric shapes in the foreground, although they are partially screened by the orderly row of mitigation plantings, which visually soften the contrast introduced by the panels. The low-lying dark browns and grays of the rolling vegetation/tress in the middleground have been replaced by the geometric shapes of the panels. The perimeter fence introduces short, uniform, ordered vertical lines (posts). | 3 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 8 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.6 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-3 | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Hartland Road | **Date:** 8/17/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 50 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Transportation Corridor |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers; Tourists and Recreational Users | Low | Low | Low (Residents)<br>Low (Tourists/ Recreationalists) | Low |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape is characterized by a broad flat cultivated field in the foreground along the roadway, with low hill forms covered in bright green grass composing the backdrop. Dark colored mixed woodlands are seen behind the field to the south, and a thin row of bare trees across the base of the hill.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform is relatively flat in the foreground/middleground where the field lies. Low, rolling hills are visible in the middleground, surrounding the field. | No proposed grading is shown in this view. Panels partially block views of existing green hill. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Contiguous patches of wooded areas in the middleground; small patches of trees scattered throughout the fields and along Arsenal Street. Agricultural fields contain low grasses in the foreground and middleground. Colors associated with the vegetation include browns and golds. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field, low-growing grasses (revegetation) are seen beneath the panels. Texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grasses. Vegetation in the middleground is now partly screened from this location. | 4 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The two-lane asphalt roadway of Hartland Road would be part of this view. Overhead utility lines (not pictured) are also preset along the highway to the west and would be seen by passing travelers. The powerplant exhaust tower (planned for demolition) can be seen rising above the background hill. | Solar panels appear as orderly, dark gray forms and geometric shapes in the foreground. The gray color of the panels differs from the earth-tone field colors. The low-lying dark browns and grays of the rolling vegetation/tress in the middleground have been replaced by the geometric shapes of the panels. The perimeter fence introduces short, uniform, ordered vertical lines (posts). | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 11 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3.6 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscape screening (evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the Facility where it is adjacent to Hartland Road. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 5 to 10 years) screen the majority of the PV panels from viewers along the road. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by the proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the landscape is installed) and mostly screened after approximately 10 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility and visual contrast of the Facility over time.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform is relatively flat in the foreground/middleground where the field lies. Low, rolling hills are visible in the middleground, surrounding the field. | No proposed grading is shown in this view. Panels partially block views of existing green grassy hill. | 2 |
| Vegetation | Contiguous patches of wooded areas in the middleground; small patches of trees scattered throughout the fields and along Arsenal Street. Agricultural fields contain low grasses in the foreground and middleground. Colors associated with the vegetation include browns and golds. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field but are nearly fully screened by mitigation landscaping as seen from Hartland Road. The neat, orderly plantings along the roadway appear consistent with surrounding vegetation that can be seen on the opposite edge of the field. Foreground deciduous shrubs add visual interest. | 2 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The two-lane asphalt roadway of Hartland Road would be part of this view. Overhead utility lines (not pictured) are also preset along the highway to the west and would be seen by passing travelers. The powerplant exhaust tower (planned for demolition) can be seen rising above the background hill. | Solar panels are nearly fully screened by mitigation plantings. The top portion of dark panels that is visible does not dominate the view. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| PROJECT INFORMATION | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-5 | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Haight Road Residential | **Date:** 8/17/2022 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 70 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agriculture |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply — *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☒ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| Type of User: | Visual Sensitivity: | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers | Moderate | High | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by long, flat agricultural field, recently cut crop. Mature woods frame views to east and west, and limit views to the north. The Somerset Powerplant tower and building are visible in the middleground, skylined behind the woods to the north. Other humanmade features present from this viewpoint include overhead distribution line along Haight Road, otherwise the scenery is dominated by actively cultivated fields bounded by patches of mainly deciduous woodlands. No view of Lake Ontario is present, screened by vegetation.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform is flat in the foreground/middleground. No views of Lake Ontario are present. | No proposed grading is shown. Because the viewer is looking along the length of the panel rows, views into the distance are partly maintained. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Harvested/cut forage crop fills the agricultural field, which stretches into the middleground view. View is framed to the east and west by deciduous woodlands, photographed during leaf off conditions. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field low-grasses which appear to remain unchanged in the foreground. Texture of the panels appears finer and smoother than the existing grasses. Vegetation in the middleground is now partly blocked. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The roadway of Haight Road would be visible from this location. The Somerset Powerplant (not a Project part; planned for demolition) can be seen behind existing vegetation in the background. | Solar panels appear as dark gray lines and geometric shapes in the foreground. The gray color of the panels and dark mesh of the fencing differs from the earth-tone golden and brown field colors. The low-lying dark browns and grays of the rolling vegetation/tress in the middleground have been replaced by the geometric shapes of the panels. The perimeter fence introduces short, uniform, ordered vertical lines (posts). | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 8 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2.6 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscape screening (evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the Facility where it is adjacent to Haight Road. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 5 to 10 or more years) screen most of the PV panels from viewers along the road and from residences south of Haight Road. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by the proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the landscape is installed) and mostly to fully screened after approximately 10 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed mitigation will reduce the visibility of the Facility over time.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform is flat in the foreground/middleground. No views of Lake Ontario are present. | No proposed grading is shown. With the landscape screening installed in the foreground, the view into the background landscape is also screened, which had contributed visual depth. | 1 |
| Vegetation | Harvested/cut forage crop fills the agricultural field, which stretches into the middleground view. View is framed to the east and west by deciduous woodlands, photographed during leaf off conditions. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field but are fully screened from this view by mitigation plantings. The dark trees and orderly row of plantings appear consistent with the surrounding vegetation, and the deciduous shrubs in the foreground add color and visual interest. Vegetation in the middleground is partly blocked by the mitigation plantings. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The roadway of Haight Road would be visible from this location. The Somerset Powerplant (not a Project part; planned for demolition) can be seen behind existing vegetation in the background. | Solar panels appear fully screened by the mitigation plantings during both leaf off and leaf on conditions. The perimeter fence introduces short, uniform, ordered vertical lines (posts). | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** VP-15 | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Russel's U Pick Blueberry Farm | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 50 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Agriculture |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☒ *Inferior* ☐ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☐ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☒ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Residents; Through Travelers | High | Low | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is rural; dominated by green turf and mixed deciduous brush along the edge of the existing two-lane rural highway. The terrain is level into the distance. The highway (Lake Road) creates a clear view corridor into the distance to the east, otherwise the view is limited to the immediate foreground by vegetation. Partial views of a cleared agricultural field abutting Lake Road in the background can be assumed by the contrast in color: the low clipped crop is yellow golden color. The Somerset Powerplant exhaust tower is partly visible in the middleground, skylined behind the brush to the northeast. A single metal utility pole can be seen in the middleground next to the highway. No view of Lake Ontario is present, screened by vegetation.

## CONTRAST RATING[1]

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Landform is flat in the foreground/middleground. No views of Lake Ontario are present. | No proposed grading is shown. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Dense large shrubs and small deciduous trees are clustered along Lake Road, the green color and textures dominate the foreground view. Green turf covers the ground along the roadside. | Dense brush is removed to install solar panels in uniform rows along the roadway. The brush removal exposes more open sky into the view, expanding the overall scene. Large structures in the background are revealed: more of the powerplant exhaust tower becomes visible. The recognizable form and colors of the large red barn behind the Babcock House is revealed, as is the blocky form of the upper portion of the powerplant main building in the background. | 4 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The flat grey band of the Lake Road Highway is the primary built feature, followed in dominance by the Somerset Powerplant exhaust stack (planned by others for future removal) and silver utility pole. | Solar panels appear in uniform rows as dark gray gridded bands and geometric shapes in the foreground parallel to Lake Road, behind evenly spaced wooden posts. | 5 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 9 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 3 |

### Proposed Mitigation:

Landscape screening (mixed evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs) is proposed along the Facility where it is adjacent to Lake Road. From this viewing location, the proposed evergreen trees will over time (i.e., 5 to 10 or more years) screen most of the PV panels from viewers along Lake Road. There are no existing residences south of Lake Road at this location that would have introduced Facility views. The low profile of the panels will be partially screened by the proposed evergreen trees after approximately 5 years of growth (after the landscape is installed) and mostly to fully screened after approximately 10 years (after the landscape is installed). Overall, the proposed landscape mitigation will over time reduce visibility of the Facility as seen from Lake Road.

[1] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed without landscape mitigation included.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

| CONTRAST RATING – *WITH LANDSCAPE MITIGATION*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Features** | **Characteristic Landscape Description** | **Proposed Activity Description** | **Contrast Rating** |
| Landform/Water | Landform is flat in the foreground/middleground. No views of Lake Ontario are present. | No proposed grading is shown. With the landscape screening installed in the foreground, the expanded sky view above the Facility solar panels becomes reduced. The hedgerow style landscaping complements the flat, straight rural highway. | 1 |
| Vegetation | Dense large shrubs and small deciduous trees are clustered along Lake Road, the green color and textures dominate the foreground view. Green turf covers the ground along the roadside. | Solar panels are added to the agricultural field but are mostly screened from this view by mitigation plantings. The dark evergreen trees and orderly row of plantings appear harmonious with the surrounding vegetation, and the deciduous shrubs in the foreground add color and visual interest. Over time, the installed trees would be expected to grow large enough to fully screen views of the solar panels, creating a dense screen of vegetation at this location along Lake Road. | 3 |
| Human-Made Modifications | The flat grey band of the Lake Road Highway is the primary built feature, followed in dominance by the Somerset Powerplant exhaust stack and silver utility pole. | Solar panels can be seen but do not dominate the view because they are mostly screened by mitigation plantings. The Facility perimeter fence is almost totally screened from view by the mitigation plantings. | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 6 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 2 |

[2] The ratings in this table were conducted for the simulations shown in Attachment 7 of the VIA. Specifically, the ratings reflect the simulations illustrating the Facility installed with proposed landscape mitigation at 5 years of growth.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint B | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; ¼ mi offshore | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 1,400 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply — *Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☒ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and | Moderate | High | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From viewpoint B, located ¼ mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Open waters of Lake Ontario dominate the view. Water appears moderately smooth. The onshore landform visible across the middleground is level above the bank which slopes very steeply downward toward the lake. | No proposed grading is visible. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Mixed evergreen and deciduous trees cover the bank slope and across some of the top of the shoreline. | Tree clearing behind the vegetated shoreline can be detected with careful examination but is not obvious because it is screened by the maintained tree line. Overall, the continuously vegetated shoreline character is preserved. Three very narrow 'peek-abo' gaps appear in the image, revealing minute dark lines of the solar panels, seen at over ¼ mile away. | 1 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human made modifications are not immediately noticeable. Upon careful review, the top of a wooden 'H-frame' electrical pole can be seen above the treetops, though it is almost totally screened from view by the trees. | The solar Facility cannot be readily detected. Very inconspicuous dark slivers just above the ground surface are visible within a small number of narrow gaps behind the existing vegetation. At a distance of ¼ mile, the panels are not identifiable and appear similar to the ground plain itself: dark horizontal forms. Although the upper portion of some of the substation components (lightning masts) are visible above the tree canopy, at this distance – 0.8 mi. - the substation would go unnoticed by most viewers because the narrow vertical equipment blends in behind the upper tree canopy. | 1 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 2 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0.66 |

### Mitigation:

As seen ¼ mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint B would not result in visual impacts, because the level of change is so inconspicuous. No mitigation for visual effects would be required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint G | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; ¼ mi offshore | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 1,400 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐<br>*Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☒<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☐ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and commercial vessel crew | Moderate | Low-Moderate | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From Lake viewpoint G, located ¼ mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Open waters of Lake Ontario dominate the view. Water appears moderately smooth. The onshore landform visible across the middleground is level above the bank which slopes downward toward the lake. Very narrow strips of exposed sandy soil, pale brown in color, can be seen at the shoreline. | No proposed grading is visible. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Mixed evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs cover the bank slope and across the top of the flat shoreline. | No changes to the existing vegetation are seen. | 0 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human made modifications are not noticeable from Lake Viewpoint G. Natural features dominate the view. | The Somerset Solar Facility cannot be seen from Lake Viewpoint G, because it is fully screened by existing vegetation. | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0 |

### Mitigation:

As seen ¼ mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint G would not result in visual impacts, because the Facility is not visible. No mitigation for visual effects are required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint J | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; 1/2 mi offshore | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 2,700 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:** *Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply *Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐ *Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐ *Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☒ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and commercial vessel crew | Moderate | Low-Moderate | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From viewpoint J, located 1/2 mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface. Behind the vegetated shoreline, the rounded and smooth grassy surface of the capped landfill mounds rise approximately 100 ft. above the tree canopy.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Open waters of Lake Ontario dominate the view. Water appears moderately smooth and bright blue. The onshore landform visible horizontally across the scene appears level along the lakeshore, and behind the shoreline are two conjoined green earthen mounds: the capped and grass-covered former landfill. | No proposed grading is visible. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Mixed evergreen and deciduous trees cover the bank slope and across some of the top of the shoreline. The landfill mounds seen behind the shoreline bank appear light green covered in low growing grass. | No changes to the existing vegetation can be seen. The shoreline vegetation is maintained. | 0 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human made modifications are not immediately noticeable. The capped and grass-covered landfill mounds appear fairly natural as seen from the lake, behind the dense vegetation. | The solar Facility is not visible because it is screened by the existing vegetation along the lake shore. | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0 |

### Mitigation:

As seen 1/2 mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint J would not result in visual impacts, because the Somerset Solar Facility cannot be seen. No mitigation for visual effects is required or proposed.

# VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

*Somerset Solar Project*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Viewpoint:** Lake Ontario Viewpoint L | **Reviewers Name:** B. Guthrie |
| **Location:** Lake Ontario; 1 mi offshore | **Date:** 7/25/2023 |
| **Distance from Project:** Approx. 5,300 feet | **Landscape Similarity Zone:** Open water |
| **Angle of Observation:**<br>*Level* ☐ *Inferior* ☒ *Superior* ☐ | **Visibility:** Check all that apply<br>*Screened* ☒ *Partially* ☐<br>*Backdropped* ☐ *Mostly* ☐<br>*Skylined* ☐ *Completely* ☒ |

| **Type of User:** | **Visual Sensitivity:** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *User Expectation:* | *Duration of View:* | *Use Volume:* | *Overall Sensitivity:* |
| Marine recreationists and commercial vessel crew | Moderate | Low-Moderate | Low | Moderate |

**Description of Existing View:**

Landscape character is dominated by the flat, expansive openness of the blueish grey waters of Lake Ontario. From viewpoint L, located 1 mile offshore facing south toward the Facility area, the shoreline appears as a consistently vegetated band positioned approximately 20 feet above the lake surface. Behind the vegetated shoreline, the largest features of the Somerset Powerplant – the exhaust tower; the main building -and the rounded and smooth grassy surface of the capped landfill mounds are visible.

## CONTRAST RATING

| Features | Characteristic Landscape Description | Proposed Activity Description | Contrast Rating |
|---|---|---|---|
| Landform/Water | Open waters of Lake Ontario dominate the view. Water appears moderately smooth and bright blue. The onshore landform visible horizontally across the scene appears level along the lakeshore, and behind the shoreline are two conjoined green earthen mounds: the capped and grass-covered former landfill. | No proposed grading is visible. | 0 |
| Vegetation | Mixed evergreen and deciduous trees cover the bank slope and across some of the top of the shoreline. The landfill mounds seen behind the shoreline bank appear light green covered in low growing grass. | No changes to the existing vegetation can be seen. The shoreline vegetation is maintained. | 0 |
| Human-Made Modifications | Human made modifications are not immediately noticeable. The capped and grass-covered landfill mounds appear fairly natural as seen from the lake, behind the dense vegetation. | The solar Facility is not visible because it is screened by the existing vegetation along the lake shore. | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Total*** | 0 |
| | | ***Contrast Rating Average*** | 0 |

### Mitigation:

As seen 1 mile offshore from Lake Ontario, viewpoint L would not result in visual impacts, because the Somerset Solar Facility cannot be seen. No mitigation for visual effects is required or proposed.