

A new simulation of the proposed Brown Hill substation from supplemental Viewpoint 3 was also prepared utilizing the same techniques described in the SVIA, except the three-dimensional model of the proposed facility was developed by the Project electrical engineers (MSE). The simulation of the substation was presented in comparison to the existing view from supplemental Viewpoint 3 (see Figure 25 in Appendix B).

The simulations for each viewpoint were then presented to the EDR rating panel that had previously evaluated the visual impact of the proposed Project. For the previously-evaluated simulations, the panel members were asked whether the revised layout changed the original evaluation of visual impact from each viewpoint, and if so, how. Based on their review of the original and revised simulations, the panel felt that the revised layout had little effect on the original visual impact results in 17 out of the 20 revised simulations. From Viewpoints 11, 57, 68, 71A, 94, 114, 130, 154, 160, 178, 194, 195, 205, 207, 209, 210, and 228 the overall appearance, scale, and visual impact of the Cohocton Project remained relatively unchanged, when comparing the original and revised project layout. However, in three of the simulations, one or more of the rating panel members judged the impact to be different.

The visual impact from Viewpoint 74 (Figure 9 of Appendix D) was reduced due to the new alignment of the 115 kV transmission line coming off of Lent Hill. With the new alignment, the cleared right-of-way (ROW) traverses the side of the hill, and is more concealed by topography and trees than was the previous alignment. Although the new ROW draws the viewer's eye to a cluster of turbines on the ridgetop, it is much less of an alteration to the wooded hillside, and overall visual impact is reduced. The composite impact score for this viewpoint was reduced from 3.0 (moderate contrast) to 2.04 (low to moderate contrast).

Visual impact of the project was increased in Viewpoint 110 (Figure 11 of Appendix D) with the addition of a foreground turbine to the view. The foreground turbine (approximately 0.25 mile from the viewer) presents significant scale contrast and becomes a dominant feature in the view. The composite visual impact rating from this viewpoint increased from 2.50 to 3.54. This is consistent with findings of the VIA and SVIA, that viewpoints which include turbines at foreground distances (i.e., under 0.5 mile) are likely to have the greatest visual impact.

The cumulative simulation from Viewpoint 133 (Figure 14 of Appendix D) was revised, not only to show the updated Cohocton turbine layout, but also to include turbines from the Dutch Hill Wind Power Project (along with those from the Cohocton and WindFarm Prattsburgh projects previously