Visual Impact Rating Form

Project: CENTRAL HUDSON A & C LINE PROJECT		
Rating Panel Member: STEVE BREITZKA	Date: 01/28/13	VP#: 17

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION: *please describe this view in your own words*

Sunny, fall season photo of the utility right-of-way cut through dense, mature trees. Foreground is maintained (mowed) turf with a gravel path (approximately 8-10' wide). Turf covers a berm up to a dense understory that masks the bottoms of the utility poles.

SCENIC QUALITY: *please rate existing scenic quality low, medium or high* LOW

VIEWER TYPE: *check as many as apply.*

☒Resident ☐Traveler ☒Recreational ☐Other _____ Not sure who uses the gravel path/drive.

CONTRAST RATING: *Rate the level of contrast between the proposed structures and the existing view.*

COMPONENT	SCORE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRAST
Landform	0	The only landform is a low berm. The proposed line and the existing berm have no influence on each other.
Vegetation	0	There is no change from existing to proposed. The wire and overall visible pole quantity remains the same. The self- →
Land Use	0	If the existing poles pose no issues or concerns to the current land use than the proposed poles should have no impact.
Water	NA	No water (permanent) present. Just puddles on the path.
Sky	1	The quantity of poles remains the same (in this photo) although the proposed poles are spread out along the line: form poles in
Viewer Activity	0	Use of the path should not be affected, if it is used at all.
TOTAL	1	
AVERAGE	1/5 = .2	'Water' not included in calculation.

Variable factors that may have influenced rating (atmospheric conditions, season, etc.):

The fall colors on adjacent trees may subdue the stark brown color of the poles but this is minimal.

Perceived effect on scenic quality / viewer enjoyment:

Since the proposed poles are replacing existing poles, there will be no real effect. There may appear to be more poles with the replacement due to the linear layout but the quantity is actually the same.

Contrast Rating Score Chart

0	Insignificant
0.5	
1	Minimal
1.5	
2	Moderate
2.5	
3	Appreciable
3.5	
4	Strong

Vegetation (cont.)

weathering steel poles, while not wood (as the existing poles appear to be), will still blend in the same as the existing poles.

Sky (cont.)

four linear locations. The existing poles are arranged in pairs: two poles per location. Spreading the poles out along the line, while maintaining the same quantity, does create a greater, more dominant presence in the sky.

Visual Impact Rating Form

Project: CENTRAL HUDSON A:C LINE PROJECT		
Rating Panel Member: STEVE BREITZKA	Date: 01/28/2013	VP#: 40

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION: *please describe this view in your own words*

Single-family residential neighborhood with mature trees (deciduous and coniferous) on large lots (one-acre plus given the distance between houses). Asphalt street (unpainted) heading down a gradual hill with asphalt curb-cuts for driveways on the right. Existing utility poles and lines (double pole and single pole) run adjacent to one house; appearing →

SCENIC QUALITY: *please rate existing scenic quality low, medium or high* HIGH

VIEWER TYPE: *check as many as apply.*

☒Resident ☐Traveler ☐Recreational ☐Other _____

CONTRAST RATING: *Rate the level of contrast between the proposed structures and the existing view.*

COMPONENT	SCORE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRAST
Landform	1	The proposed pole replaces a shorter double pole. This increased height has a small effect on the rolling hills in the distance. It also →
Vegetation	1	Pole height is the greatest contrast. The existing single pole remains and while it is already taller than adjacent
Land Use	0	No contrast... with exception of decreased pole/ground interfaces. This should not impact land use.
Water	NA	No water visible in this viewpoint.
Sky	2	Similar to vegetation and landform, the increased height of the proposed pole replacement has a greater presence in the sky. →
Viewer Activity	0	No change to activities.
TOTAL	4	
AVERAGE	4/5 = .8	'Water' not included in this calculation.

Variable factors that may have influenced rating (atmospheric conditions, season, etc.):

Pale blue sky with light cloud cover makes everything pop.

Perceived effect on scenic quality / viewer enjoyment: The taller pole does have more of a presence given its height although there is an existing utility corridor. The overall change is minimal since there are poles here already.

Contrast Rating Score Chart

0	Insignificant
0.5	
1	Minimal
1.5	
2	Moderate
2.5	
3	Appreciable
3.5	
4	Strong

VP descr. (cont.)

to be very close to the front yard.

Landform (cont.)

changes the appearance of the grass slope at the houses given the accentuated angle of ground plane to pole top / wire.

Veg. (cont.)

conifers, the new pole towers even higher.

Sky (cont.)

There are also more lines visible in the sky since the new pole has elevated the lines above the horizon. Some of the existing lines fade away due to their height.

Visual Impact Rating Form

Project: CENTRAL HUDSON A & C LINE PROJECT		
Rating Panel Member: STEVE BREITZKA	Date: 01/28/2013	VP#: 56

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION: *please describe this view in your own words*
Fall season view of a utility corridor (existing - two sets of lines and poles running parallel) over a single-family residence front yard and driveway. The corridor extends into dense vegetation: mature deciduous and coniferous trees on either side with a thick understory.

SCENIC QUALITY: *please rate existing scenic quality low, medium or high* LOW

VIEWER TYPE: *check as many as apply.*
☒Resident ☐Traveler ☐Recreational ☐Other _____

CONTRAST RATING: *Rate the level of contrast between the proposed structures and the existing view.*

COMPONENT	SCORE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRAST
Landform	0	No significant landforms.
Vegetation	-2	The existing line on the right has double poles that stand out more than the proposed single poles. The single poles blend more with the vegetation.
Land Use	0	No impact.
Water	NA	No water present in this viewpoint.
Sky	1	The proposed poles are taller than the existing poles, extending above the adjacent tree line. The height difference is minimal.
Viewer Activity	0	No change to activity.
TOTAL	~~8~~ -1	→ $-1/5 = -.2$
AVERAGE	~~8/5 = .6~~	'Water' not included in this calculation.

Variable factors that may have influenced rating (atmospheric conditions, season, etc.):
The fall colors may mask the self weathering steel a little.

Perceived effect on scenic quality / viewer enjoyment: The existing utility corridor cuts a large swath through the dense, mature woods. The proposed replacement of one set of these existing lines has little effect on the corridor condition. Although taller, the new poles have less of a presence since they are single poles that do not have large, silver cross members like the existing double poles.

Contrast Rating Score Chart

0	Insignificant
0.5	
1	Minimal
1.5	
2	Moderate
2.5	
3	Appreciable
3.5	
4	Strong

Visual Impact Rating Form

Project: CENTRAL HUDSON A.C LINE PROJECT		
Rating Panel Member: STEVE BREITZKA	Date: 01/29/2013	VP#: 61

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION: *please describe this view in your own words*

Existing utility corridor with three sets of lines and poles: one line has double wood poles and two lines have towering metal stanchions. The ground plane is a low scrub brush understory and there are dense trees on either side of the corridor. There is an existing gas pipeline (sign) in the foreground.

SCENIC QUALITY: *please rate existing scenic quality low, medium or high* LOW

VIEWER TYPE: *check as many as apply.*

☐Resident ☒Traveler ☐Recreational ☒Other It is unclear if anyone will ever have this view.

CONTRAST RATING: *Rate the level of contrast between the proposed structures and the existing view.*

COMPONENT	SCORE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRAST
Landform	0	No significant landforms. The power lines cross a low berm although it is insignificant in the landscape.
Vegetation	0	No impact with adjacent vegetation.
Land Use	0	No change to existing land use.
Water	NA	No water visible in this viewpoint.
Sky	1	The proposed poles are taller and extend above the tree line although the existing metal stanchions to remain are still taller.
Viewer Activity	0	No activities ~~present~~ present.
TOTAL	1	
AVERAGE	1/5 = .2	'Water' not included in this calculation.

Variable factors that may have influenced rating (atmospheric conditions, season, etc.):

None in this viewpoint.

Perceived effect on scenic quality / viewer enjoyment:

It is difficult to discern if there will be any viewers. Even an occasional walker or hiker will view this as a utility corridor. The proposed lines have no effect on viewer enjoyment.

Contrast Rating Score Chart

0	Insignificant
0.5	
1	Minimal
1.5	
2	Moderate
2.5	
3	Appreciable
3.5	
4	Strong

Visual Impact Rating Form

Project: CENTRAL HUDSON A&C LINE PROJECT		
Rating Panel Member: STEVE BREITZKA	Date: 01/29/2013	VP#: 78

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION: *please describe this view in your own words*

Residential road (unpainted) with driveways to the right and left. The road is lined with mature trees, new trees, and unmowed meadow grasses. There are utility lines crossing the road with poles on either side. The horizon is dense trees covering rolling hills.

SCENIC QUALITY: *please rate existing scenic quality low, medium or high* HIGH

VIEWER TYPE: *check as many as apply.*

☒ Resident ☒ Traveler ☐ Recreational ☐ Other _____

Not sure how often a traveler might drive this road but it's possible.

CONTRAST RATING: *Rate the level of contrast between the proposed structures and the existing view.*

COMPONENT	SCORE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRAST
Landform	1	The proposed poles break the horizon and add an interruption to the rolling hills. This is minor however.
Vegetation	1	The placement of the proposed poles makes them stand out more than the poles they are replacing. However, the dense vegetation →
Land Use	0	No change to current land use.
Water	NA	No water visible in this viewpoint.
Sky	1	Similar to vegetation, the ~~pole~~ proposed pole placement makes these more visible. The proposed poles also extend above the horizon.
Viewer Activity	0	No change or impact.
TOTAL	3	
AVERAGE	3/5 = .6	'Water' not included in this calculation.

Variable factors that may have influenced rating (atmospheric conditions, season, etc.):

Fall color may mute the brown color.

Perceived effect on scenic quality / viewer enjoyment:

The proposed poles are more visible than the poles they are replacing however, since these are replacements, they have very little effect on the existing condition.

Contrast Rating Score Chart

0	Insignificant
0.5	
1	Minimal
1.5	
2	Moderate
2.5	
3	Appreciable
3.5	
4	Strong

Vegetation (cont.)

. also masks the self-weathering poles. The color blends the poles with adjacent trees.

Visual Impact Rating Form

Project: CENTRAL HUDSON A&C LINE PROJECT		
Rating Panel Member: STEVE BREITZKA	Date: 01/29/2013	VP#: 81

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION: *please describe this view in your own words*

Field clearing surrounded by brush and mature trees. Existing utility lines (two separate lines in the clearing with two different pole types and a distant metal standhion line on the horizon) cross the view. The field appears to be maintained (mowed) although there is no clear secondary use and the corridor →

SCENIC QUALITY: *please rate existing scenic quality low, medium or high* ~~LOW~~ MEDIUM

VIEWER TYPE: *check as many as apply.*

☐Resident ☐Traveler ☐Recreational ☒Other Not clear who would have this view.

CONTRAST RATING: *Rate the level of contrast between the proposed structures and the existing view.*

COMPONENT	SCORE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRAST
Landform	0	The rolling landforms are insignificant. The proposed poles appear to roll with these landforms.
Vegetation	0	There is no impact on adjacent vegetation.
Land Use	0	It is not clear what the land use is here but since this is a pole replacement, there should be no impact on the existing use.
Water	NA	No water present in this viewpoint.
Sky	0	The proposed pole breaks the tree line horizon the same as the existing poles to remain and the poles to be replaced.
Viewer Activity	0	It is not clear what activities may take place here. However, since there are existing utilities to remain, there should be no impact.
TOTAL	0	
AVERAGE	0	Not that it matters but water not included.

Variable factors that may have influenced rating (atmospheric conditions, season, etc.):

None.

Perceived effect on scenic quality / viewer enjoyment:

~~The proposed pole replacements have no effect on the scene. This is due to the existing utilities to remain.~~

The visual complexity (per pole) is reduced as the double pole with cross member structures are replaced by single poles. This offers an improvement in the field.

Contrast Rating Score Chart

0	Insignificant
0.5	
1	Minimal
1.5	
2	Moderate
2.5	
3	Appreciable
3.5	
4	Strong

Viewpoint (cont.)

perimeter is not a clear cut through the trees.

Visual Impact Rating Form

Project: CENTRAL HUDSON A & C LINE PROJECT		
Rating Panel Member: STEVE BREITZFA.	Date: 01/29/2013	VP#: 83

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION: *please describe this view in your own words*

Rural, single-family residences nestled in mature trees. Existing overhead utility lines run adjacent to a road (assumed- not visible in this view). The lines have two pole styles, each comprised of a double pole.

SCENIC QUALITY: *please rate existing scenic quality low, medium or high* ~~LOW~~ MEDIUM

VIEWER TYPE: *check as many as apply.*

☒Resident ☐Traveler ☐Recreational ☐Other _____

CONTRAST RATING: *Rate the level of contrast between the proposed structures and the existing view.*

COMPONENT	SCORE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTRAST
Landform	0	The houses and road are on a hillside and the utility lines appear to match this landform.
Vegetation	0	The existing and proposed poles extend above the adjacent tree line. There is no change in relation to the vegetation.
Land Use	0	No change to current/existing land use.
Water	NA	No visible water in this viewpoint.
Sky	0	Although taller, the proposed pole replacement is still shorter than the existing double pole to remain. Perhaps these are →
Viewer Activity	0	No clear change to activity.
TOTAL	0	
AVERAGE	0/5 = 0	Again, may not matter with a zero but 'water' not included.

Variable factors that may have influenced rating (atmospheric conditions, season, etc.):

None.

Perceived effect on scenic quality / viewer enjoyment:

The greatest effect is going from an existing double pole to a single pole. However, since a double pole line will remain, this change is minimal overall.

Contrast Rating Score Chart

0	Insignificant
0.5	
1	Minimal
1.5	
2	Moderate
2.5	
3	Appreciable
3.5	
4	Strong

Sky (cont.)

The same height (difficult to discern) although the proposed pole is singular and not double so it has less of a presence in the sky than the poles to remain.

Steven M. Breitzka, RLA, LEED AP BD+C

Senior Managing Landscape Architect

education

Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ithaca, New York, *Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture*, 1998

professional affiliations

Member, American Society of Landscape Architects
Registered Landscape Architect, Colorado #583

Golf Course Rater, *Golfweek Magazine*

employment history

Landscape Architect and Project Manager, Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture and Engineering, P.C., Syracuse, New York, May 2012 to present.

Landscape Architect and Senior Associate, RNL, Denver, Colorado, 2003-2012.

Landscape Designer and Office Manager, Douglas Ian Associates, Rochester, New York, 2002-2003.

Landscape Designer, Dufresne-Henry Inc., Boston, Massachusetts, 2000-2002.

Landscape Architect, RNL, Denver, Colorado, 1998-2000.

publications

"Drawing Inspiration" Landscape Architect and Specifier News Volume 27, Number 11, November 2011.

project experience

Energy Project Visual Impact Assessments – Landscape Architect – responsible for preparing Visual Impact Assessments (VIAs) for commercial wind power and power line projects in Upstate New York. The VIAs present the visual character and significant aesthetic resources within a 5 or 10 mile visual study area. Viewshed analysis, line-of-sight cross sections, field review, and computer-assisted visual simulations were used to evaluate the potential visibility and visual impact of these projects. Notable projects include: the CHG & E A&C Line, the Crown City Wind Farm, and the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm.

SUNY State University at Oswego, West Campus, Onondaga & Seneca East Quadrangle – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating conceptual design for improvement of quadrangle site surrounding by 3 dormitory buildings, 2 dining halls and a fitness center. *14-acre site*.

SUNY State University at Oswego, North Corridor Dormitory Project, Phase I – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating conceptual site planning and design to enhance North Corridor Dormitory project.

SUNY State University of New York at Oneonta, Physical Science Building – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating site planning and design services for $30M renovation and addition of the Physical Science Building. The spaces on the southwest side of the building have potential to serve as outdoor classrooms displaying sustainable stormwater and native landscape initiatives. Scope includes the design of the bio-swales, meadows, and the building entry plazas. *LEED™ Silver Base Rating*.

SUNY State University of New York at Plattsburgh, Hawkins Hall Pond Infrastructure Replacement – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating concept design through bid document phase services for a landscape design surrounding the historic pond. Landscape includes restoration of disturbed areas for approximately 110,000 SF (low level restoration) and 20,000 SF of plantings including trees, shrubs, and perennials. Improvements include site furniture, lighting layout, benches, relocation and restoration of memorial benches, waterfall and water aeration features.

Cazenovia College, Christakos Field Gateway Project – Senior Managing Landscape Architect - responsible for coordinating site planning and design services for design and construction documents to install gateway elements including brick clad freestanding columns, custom steel swing gates, custom metal signage and steel fencing, grading and pavement areas.

Le Moyne College, Dewitt, NY – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating development of a Statuary Placement Master Plan. Responsible for coordinating preliminary design for St. Ignatius sculpture placement. Working closely with nationally-recognized religious sculptor, Brian Hanlon.

Jefferson Community College, Watertown, NY – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for developing planting plan to enhance new design-build on-campus student housing project for the community college campus.

Miron Residence, Skaneateles, NY – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating site design and approvals process through the Town Planning Board. Design includes shoreline and outdoor patios and garden spaces.

Wallace Residence, Skaneateles, NY – Landscape Architect – responsible for new deck and railing design and layout documents and modeling.

project experience (cont.)

Skaneateles Country Club, Skaneateles, NY – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating preliminary design documents for Phases 1-3 of the clubhouse master plan.

Up the Creek Farm, Fairport, NY – Landscape Architect – responsible for landform design to serve as a visual and auditory buffer adjacent for a horse farm located adjacent to a major highway.

Emerson Park, Auburn, NY – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating grant application materials including a boat launch improvement master plan and cost estimate.

Katlynn Marine, Sodus Point, NY – Senior Managing Landscape Architect – responsible for coordinating overall marina master plan including updated circulation patterns, new outdoor spaces, and sustainable site initiatives.

previous experience with other firms

Research Support Facility, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO Collaborated on the environmentally sensitive design for the primary entry plaza, outdoor employee café, and surrounding landscape and stormwater strategies for the 222,000 square foot LEED Platinum Zero Energy Building. Initiated new submittal and review process throughout all design-build stages. Created template for campus interpretive signage program showcasing sustainable practices. Lead Quality Control for each drawing and specification submittal.

The Crossing, Church of the Nazarene, Broomfield, CO – Master planned the full build-out vision for the mixed-use 78-acre site. Designed entry experience, Great Lawn, sustainable parking and plazas for Phase 1 – a 68,000 square foot church. Lead zoning and entitlement process through the City and County of Bloomfield.

One Steamboat Place, Steamboat Springs, CO – Designed one-acre public outdoor space, outdoor pool and plaza, and overall site for the private "cowboy chic" condominiums. Developed project from concept design through construction administration. Designed signature site elements to compliment the distinctive architectural style and unique client flair. Lead Quality Control for the multi-disciplinary site design team.

Salvation Army Red Shield Community Center, Denver, CO – Lead entitlement process through the City of Denver including rezoning, site development , and traffic engineering plans. Designed landscape and entry plaza for the neighborhood youth center.

Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation, Boulder, CO – Designed 280-space porous asphalt parking lot as part of 15 year campus implementation plan. Lead project through City of Boulder entitlement and engineering process.

Eastlake Boardwalk and Overlook, Thornton, CO –Evaluated fire-proof design options for a replacement deck system. Designed innovative overlook inspired by material re-use, local stone quarries, and lightweight structure.

Lambertson Lakes, Thornton, CO – Utilized a narrative + 3D visualization approach to generate four concepts for a new trail system and landscape focused around upgraded dam projects.

Margaret Carpenter Recreation Center, Thornton, CO – Designed the 136-acre park master plan and subsequent 25-acre Phase 1 master plan including sports fields, historic carousel site, and accompanying parking.

George Eastman House, Rochester, NY – Restored historic pathways and gardens surrounding the museum.

Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA – Designed master plan for new NCAA athletic facility.

Salisbury Greenway, Brockton, MA – Designed Phase 1 of the new pocket park greenway.