



memorandum

To: Vermont Public Utility Commission **EDR Project No:** 19121
From: Matthew Robinson
Date: October 23, 2020
Reference: Case No. 20-1261-NMP

Comments:

EDR was approached to provide additional aesthetic review in regard to a Procedural Order granted by the Vermont Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in response to interveners requests. EDR concluded that further analysis provided by the Petitioner would supplement the decision presented as part of the aesthetic review and is necessary for the Commission to see. Below are the further considerations/observations taken and conclusions drawn with regard to the specific goal of answering the following question put forth by the Commission.

“The Commission also requests that the Department’s consultant explain whether it is necessary for the Commission to see visual simulations of the proposed vegetative screening at the time it is planted and when the vegetative screening reaches maturity. If visual simulations are not necessary, the Department’s consultant should explain why not.”

- The Commission

In the EDR review of the Petitioners Aesthetic Review it was decided that to address whether the proposed landscape mitigation plan (Exhibit-MHG-LT-2) was appropriate to accomplish the goals set forth in the Petitioners Aesthetic Assessment (Exhibit MHG-LT-1) , enough information was not provided to allow for a response. Therefore the answer to the Commission’s questions above is that it is necessary for the Commission to see either visual simulations representing the current landscape mitigation plan at install and maturity (20 years) or line-of-sight sections also representing the current landscape mitigation plan at install and maturity (20 years).

A visual simulation was submitted by the Petitioner and the following conclusions were drawn, specifically regarding the concerns put forth by the Commission.

- The visual simulation accomplishes the goals set forth in the mitigation plan by filtering the view of the proposed panels while preserving the Taconic ridgeline. However, the material shown in the rendering is not per the proposed landscape mitigation plan (Exhibit-MHG-LT-2). The Petitioner should revise the visual simulation and including the plant material per the proposed mitigation plan to give a more accurate representation. In addition, the proposed seed mix should be included in the rendering.
- The visual simulation methodology and alignment features are necessary to ascertain the accuracy of the visual simulation provided.
- The request from the Commission asks for visual simulations of the proposed vegetative screening at the time it is planted and when the vegetative screening reaches maturity. The current simulation is lacking the requested information.

As per the Procedural Order and with guidance from EDR it is deemed necessary that the practitioner either update the provided visual simulation as recommended above or provide line-of-sight sections. It is necessary for the Commission to be provided with the suggested analysis so that a fully informed aesthetic review can be provided and decided on.

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Robinson
Visualization Project Manager