



Gordon Perkins, GISP

Associate, Visualization Practice Leader



Gordon is a Division Manager, Visualization, bringing 25 years of professional experience and recognized expertise in visualization and visual impact assessment. Widely regarded as a leading consultant in the Northeast and a trusted resource within the renewable energy industry. Gordon has extensive knowledge of technical methodologies for visual impact, visual resources, and scenic landscape assessments.

As a Division Manager, Gordon oversees the ongoing evaluation and development of EDR's visual impact assessment methodologies, incorporating emerging techniques in data collection, processing, analysis, and 3D modeling. Gordon manages project staffing, scheduling, and coordination across EDR's multi-disciplinary team, remaining actively involved throughout each project to provide technical guidance, oversight, and quality assurance.

Project Experience – Transmission & Communication

Education

- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Ecology Emphasis, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 2001
- Associate of Arts, Keystone College, La Plume, PA, 1998

Certifications

- Certified Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP)
- Federal Aviation Association, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Pilot Certification for Commercial Flights

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Alliance for Clean Energy New York
- Member, American Wind Energy Association

Employment History

- Division Manager, Visualization, Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C., Syracuse, NY, 2020-present
- Senior Project Manager, Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C., Syracuse, NY, 2016-2020

Industrial Tower and Wireless, LLC Telecommunication Facility, Town of Enosburgh, Franklin County, VT - Provided oversight in the completion of an Aesthetics Report using the Quechee Analysis for a telecommunication tower and provided prefile testimony on behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Industrial Tower and Wireless, LLC Telecommunication Facility, Town of Ira, Rutland County, VT - Completed an Aesthetic Analysis and Orderly Development Review using the Quechee Analysis. Provided direct testimony for a on behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Southern Rhode Island Transmission Project, East Greenwich, RI - Completed photography and field verification for a 7.3-mile 115 kV transmission line and associated substation. Created visual simulations representing realistic and accurate right-of-way clearing and proposed improvements. Provided expert witness testimony before the Rhode Island Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Flat Rock Transmission Line, Lewis County, NY - Performed viewshed mapping, line of sight cross sections and field verification for visual impact assessment of a 10-mile, 230 kV transmission line. Also prepared eight photo simulations of the proposed project.

New York Regional Interconnect, New York State - Coordinated field operations for over 1,000 visual resources over a 190-mile (570 square mile) study area. Team leader in the selection and production of simulation for over 75 viewpoints. Provided expert witness testimony before the Public Service Commission of New York State.

New York State Statewide Wireless Network - Developed visual simulations for the Generic Visual Impact Assessment (GVIA) included as an appendix of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared for the siting of wireless communications towers throughout New York State. The report defined landscape similarity zones and viewer groups, identified sensitive resources/receptors, supervised the development of visual simulations, and participated in the preparation of the GVIA report.

Tompkins County Public Safety Communications System, Tompkins County, NY - Developed viewshed maps and visual simulations for Visual Impact Assessment component of the DEIS prepared for the siting of nine new towers for wireless communications.

Bushkill Communications Tower, Town of Bushkill, PA - Conducted fieldwork and prepared viewshed maps and visual simulations to evaluate the visibility and visual impact of a proposed wireless communication facility. The focus of the evaluation was the project's potential impact on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Analytical results were used by the project developer in negotiations with National Park Service.

Project Experience – Onshore Energy

Union Ridge Solar, Licking County, OH - Completed a visual resource assessment evaluating the potential visual impacts associated with this 108 MW solar facility in support of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. The assessment also included a comprehensive mitigation plan including vegetative screening, berm installation, and alternative fencing materials. Also provided expert witness testimony before the Ohio Power Siting Board.

Juliet Solar, Wood County, OH - Directed the completion of visual simulations, viewshed analysis, and a visual resource assessment and comprehensive mitigation plan for a 101-megawatt solar facility situated on 670 acres of privately owned land.

South Ripley Solar Project, Chautauqua County, NY - Directed the development of a visual impact assessment and visual impact mitigation and minimization plan for a 270 MW solar facility, which includes 20 MW of battery storage. The visual impact assessment was included in a NYS 94-c application which received a notice of complete application in 2022.

Tobacco Valley Solar Farm, Simsbury, CT - Completed an abbreviated visual assessment for a 26-megawatt solar facility and created a mitigation plan which included vegetative screening, project setbacks from residential properties, and alternative fencing materials. Also testified before the Connecticut Siting Council and participated in settlement negotiations with the Town of Simsbury.

Canisteo Wind Farm, Steuben County, NY - Developed a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) under Article 10 Regulations, for a 122-turbine project. The Visual Impact Assessment Report evaluated potential project visibility within the study area, identified key views, and assessed visual impacts associated with the proposed wind power project. Also completed a Visual Impact Assessment for the associated transmission line under Article VII regulations.

Alle-Catt Wind Farm, Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Wyoming Counties, NY - Developed a VIA under Article 10 Regulations for a 117-turbine project. The Visual Impact Assessment Report evaluated potential project visibility within the study area, identified key views, and assessed visual impacts associated with the proposed wind power project.

Hardscrabble Wind Power Project, Towns of Fairfield, Norway, & Little Falls in Herkimer County, NY - Developed viewshed maps and created visual simulations for the VIA for a 61-turbine project. Assisted with preparation of the Visual Impact Assessment Report which evaluated potential project visibility within the study area, identified key views, and assessed visual impacts associated with the proposed wind power project.

Maple Ridge Wind Farm, Lewis County, NY - Assisted in the completion of a visual analysis for a 320 MW wind farm in upstate New York. Completed field verification (balloon study), visual simulations, viewshed analysis, and nighttime impact assessment.

Jordanville Wind Power Project, Towns of Stark & Warren in Herkimer County, NY - Developed viewshed maps and created visual simulations for the VIA for a proposed 150 MW, 75-turbine project. The VIA report described visible components of the proposed project, defined the visual character of the study area, and inventoried and evaluated visual resources and viewer groups. The study also evaluated potential project visibility within the study area, identified key views, and assessed visual impacts associated with the proposed wind power project.

Cohocton Wind Power Project, Town of Cohocton in Steuben County, NY - Prepared visual simulations for the VIA for an 82 MW, 41-turbine project. Assisted with preparation of the Visual Impact Assessment Report which evaluated potential project visibility within the study area, identified key views, and assessed visual impacts associated with the proposed wind power project.

Marble River Wind Farm, Towns of Clinton & Ellenburg in Clinton County, NY - Created visual simulations for the VIA for a 200 MW, 109-turbine project. Assisted with preparation of the Visual Impact Assessment Report which evaluated potential project visibility within the study area, identified key views, and assessed visual impacts associated with the proposed wind power project.

Dairy Hills Wind Farm, Towns of Castile, Covington, Perry, & Warsaw in Wyoming County, NY - Conducted visual field work and created visual simulations for a 160 MW, 80-turbine project. Assisted with preparation of the Visual Impact Assessment Report that described the appearance of visible components of the proposed project, defined the visual character of the study area, and inventoried and evaluated visual resources and viewer groups. The study also evaluated potential project visibility within the study area, identified key views, and assessed visual impacts associated with the proposed wind power project.

Jamestown Board of Public Utilities Power Plant & Operations Center, Jamestown, NY - Prepared visual simulations for a 40 MW clean-coal power-generating plant and operations center. Visual impacts of the project were assessed by creating computer models of the proposed facilities and computer-assisted visual simulations of potential impacts as viewed from

representative viewpoints. Assisted with preparation of Visual Impact Assessment Report that evaluated project visibility and visual impact on sensitive receptors and identified mitigation options, which included recommendations regarding design and siting, the color and texture of built materials, and lighting.

Clear River Energy Center & Burrillville Interconnection Project, Burrillville, RI - Prepared a visual impact assessment for a proposed 900 MW natural gas generating plant and interconnection transmission line. Visual impacts of the project were assessed by creating computer models of the proposed facilities and computer-assisted visual simulations of potential impacts as viewed from representative viewpoints. Provided expert witness testimony before the Rhode Island Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Project Experience – Offshore Wind

Atlantic Shores Wind Farm, Visual Impact Assessment, Offshore NJ - Completed the visual impact assessment for a Construction and Operations Plan and provided technical oversight of all visual impact studies including field photography and survey, visual simulation, and preparation of the visual impact assessment report.

Sunrise Wind Farm Project, Visual Impact Assessment, Offshore MA/RI - Completed the visual assessment associated with state renewable energy development bid process and provided technical oversight of all visual impact studies including field photography and survey, visual simulation, and preparation of the visual assessment report.

Revolution Wind Farm, Visual Impact Assessment, Offshore MA/RI - This project includes the on-going preparation of a visual impact assessment (VIA) associated with an offshore wind farm located off the coasts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Senior project manager responsible for technical oversight of all visual impact studies including field photography and survey, visual simulation, and preparation of the visual assessment report.

South Fork Wind Farm, Visual Impact Assessment, Offshore MA/RI - This project involved a VIA associated with an offshore wind farm located approximately 19 miles off the coast of Block Island Rhode Island. Served as senior project manager and provided technical oversight for field photography and survey, curvature of the earth calculations, viewshed methodology, simulations, and report production. Also provided graphic support for public outreach and education efforts.

Skipjack Wind Farm, Visual Impact Assessment, Offshore DE - This project includes a full VIA associated with an offshore wind farm located off the coast of Delaware and Maryland. Provided project management and technical oversight for field photography and survey, curvature of the earth calculations, viewshed methodology, simulations, and report production. Also provided graphic support for public outreach and education efforts.

Icebreaker Wind Project, Erie County, Cleveland, OH - This project included visual assessment for a proposed 20-megawatt offshore wind project in Lake Erie. Obtained photographs, assisted with preparation of visual simulations, and oversaw production of a VIA.

NYSERDA Offshore Wind Master Plan - Completed a visibility threshold study for the New York State Offshore Wind Masterplan to determine the potential visual impact threshold for the placement of offshore wind energy area nominations. The study included an analysis of past weather data to predict prevailing conditions and visibility, visual simulations, and a compendium report.

Galloo Island Wind Project, Jefferson County, NY - Prepared a VIA and provided technical support for a proposed 30-turbine wind energy facility located on an island in Lake Ontario.

Block Island Wind Farm, Block Island, RI - This project involved a proposed 30 MW wind farm facility located in the Atlantic Ocean, 3 miles off the coast of Block Island. Provided preliminary visual simulations and involved in on-going research associated with daytime and nighttime visibility thresholds of offshore turbines. Also involved in studies associated with the public acceptance of offshore wind farms.

Long Island Offshore Wind Park (LLOWP), Long Island, NY - Prepared visual simulations of the Long Island Offshore Wind Park (LLOWP) Project, a proposed 140-megawatt offshore wind power project. Provided daytime simulations of the project from multiple locations on the southern Long Island shoreline. As a sub consultant to ENSR, EDR performed photographic and survey fieldwork and detailed computer modeling to develop realistic simulations of the proposed wind farm. EDR also participated in public outreach meetings and workshops concerning the project.

Cape Wind Offshore Wind Farm, Nantucket Sound, MA - Created survey accurate visual simulations for the United States' first offshore wind proposal. Completed daytime and, first in the industry nighttime visual simulations, depicting a 420-megawatt wind farm. Provided fieldwork oversight and photography from critical points throughout Cape Cod and the Islands.

BOEM Offshore Visualizations for the MA/RI WEA - (Prior to EDR) Created over 500 surveys accurate visual simulations depicting the BOEM wind energy areas in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Used digital imaging techniques to depict four seasons and four times of day from each viewpoint. Contracted survey and meteorological experts to produce predictive visibility models.

Project Experience – Design and Engineering

Kaal Rock Connector, City of Poughkeepsie, NY - Prepared a Visual Assessment for three design alternatives associated with a multiuse trail connection on the Historic Hudson River. Completed simulations for the three concept designs and designed a rating system to determine the design with the greatest visual appeal. Completed an abbreviated visual assessment report to assist regulators in decision-making.

Hudson River Proposed Anchorage Areas, NY - Prepared animated fly-through videos using drone footage and 3D overlays from Yonkers to Poughkeepsie, New York to demonstrate the visual effects of a proposal by the United States Coast Guard to create several new anchorage areas along the shores of the Hudson River. This fly-through animation was used in a media campaign to stop the permitting of the anchorage areas.

Interstate 81 (I-81) Viaduct Project, Visual Impact Assessment, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, NY - Prepared a VIA that was conducted in accordance with Federal Highway Administration Visual Impact Assessment protocol as part of National Environmental Policy Act review as part of a consultant team with Parsons, AKRF, Inc., and TWMLA for the replacement of approximately 5 miles of elevated Interstate highways in the City of Syracuse, New York (NYS DOT PIN 3501.60, D031085).

NYS Route 3 Community Development Study, Jefferson County, NY - Provided graphic and technical assistance in this highway corridor development guideline package prepared for the Tug Hill Commission. Assisted in creating a professional, full-length video and a 150-slide DVD presentation with 3D animations and videography.

University Avenue, Syracuse, NY - This project included recommendations and guidelines for street improvements along University Avenue, a main corridor onto the Syracuse University campus. Responsible for creating photo-renderings from conceptual plans that illustrated the proposed improvements to pedestrian and vehicular spaces.

Hamlet of Brewerton Revitalization Project, Onondaga County, NY - (Prior to EDR) This project included a multimillion-dollar highway and park design improvement project. Provided expertise in state design guidelines and federal grant guidelines. Presented at major televised public outreach events.

Walden Pond Shoreline Erosion Assessment & Monitoring - (Prior to EDR) Designed a system by which the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation can photographically document erosion rates and severity. Produced an interactive map package which allows the user to compare multiple years of erosion data and photographs. Provided field survey and documentation to demonstrate the rate of erosion.

Town of Dennis Comprehensive Dredge & Beach Nourishment Plan, Town of Dennis, MA - (Prior to EDR) Completed dredge design and grading for the Bass River and associated mooring basins. Created permitting drawings for dredge and beach nourishment using LIDAR and bathymetry survey data. Assisted the Town of Dennis in a cost benefit analysis to prioritize dredging activity.

Winchester Country Club Course Expansion, Winchester, MA - (Prior to EDR) Provided the design, grading and permitting for a 15-acre golf course expansion. Provided expertise in invasive species management and wetland buffer enhancement. Performed cut fill calculations and watershed analysis.

NYS OPRHP, Four Mile Creek State Park Management Plan, Town of Porter, NY The purpose of this project was to develop a management plan to be utilized by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation as a guide to managing this 248-acre property and restoring areas of concern at Four Mile Creek State Park located on the shore of Lake Ontario. EDR proposed to conduct a site reconnaissance inventory and management plan.

Additional Employment History

- Project Scientist – Visualization and GIS Specialist, ESS Group, Inc., East Providence, RI, 2011-2016
- Senior Visual Analyst, Project Manager, Saratoga Associates Landscape Architects, Architects, Engineers, and Planners, P.C., Syracuse, NY, 2008-2011
- Project Manager and Visualization Specialist, Environmental Design & Research, Syracuse, NY, 2001-2008

Publications and Presentations

- NYSERDA Learning from the Experts, a webinar series. The Science of Visibility June 23, 2021
 - Perkins, Gordon W. "The Application of Lidar Data for Determining the Area of Potential Effect Associated with Offshore Wind Projects on the Outer Continental Shelf" (2019). Visual Resource Stewardship Conference. 13. <https://experts.esf.edu/esploro/outputs/conferencePaper/The-Application-of-Lidar-Data-for/99871060604826>
 - Southern New England Offshore Wind Energy Science Forum. University of Rhode Island. Graduate School of Oceanography 2017. Speaker on Community Impacts.
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