

July 7, 2020

Dryden-Tompkins Solar II, LLC
315 Post Road W
Westport, CT 06880

With a Copy to:

Town of Dryden – Town Board
93 E Main St
Dryden, NY 13053
Attn: Jason Leifer, Town Supervisor
Attn: Ray Burger, Director of Planning

**RE: George Road Electrical Interconnection and Visual Impact Analysis
2150 Dryden Road PV Project**

Dryden-Tompkins Solar II, LLC:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the 2150 Dryden Road PV Project final interconnection requirements and a corresponding layout with a visual impact analysis.

The 2150 Dryden Road PV Project final configuration is composed of three solar arrays, which under current New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) requirements must each have a separate meter and set of interconnection equipment.

Exhibit 1 shows the equipment layout where the poles are located on a flat area, which has an average ground elevation of 1052 feet and is located approximately 150 feet West of George Road. George Road is higher than the area of the poles with an elevation of 1062 feet at the access road and rising rapidly to the North with an elevation over 1080 feet on the north corner of the 2150 Dryden Road property. The equipment requirements include 6 poles for each interconnection for a total of 18 poles plus 2 common poles for connecting the systems to the street power grid.

Per NYSEG's safety requirements for solar projects and utility work in New York State, the poles carrying NYSEG's equipment must be installed at 43' high from the ground elevation (50' poles with 7' embedment). In tandem with the preparation of this site layout and visual impact analysis, the project Owner submitted requests to NYSEG for two options to minimize visual impacts, which included reducing pole heights or installing pad-mounted equipment; however, these were unfortunately denied due to NYSEG's existing safety and system interconnection requirements. The poles carrying customer-owned equipment will be installed at a height of 35' from the ground elevation (40' poles with 5' embedment). The steep road bank on the West side of George Road consists of tree and brush forming an effective natural visual barrier, which is further detailed in this letter.

Exhibit 2 includes two profiles showing the elevations of the road related to the interconnection point and the height of the trees and brush between the edge of road and the utility poles.



As part of the visual impact analysis, we have included a series of photographs taken from several points along George Road including the entrance access road, in front of the auto shop, at the residence driveway on the east side of George Road, and from a point just south of the Dryden Railroad Trail crossing.

In consideration of our on-site and in-office assessment of the interconnection layout, we do not believe that the equipment will create significant adverse visual impacts for the Town residents and visitors.

The extensive vegetation along the West side of George Road, coupled with the elevation difference between the road and the pole area, provide an effective natural vegetative screening for those traveling along George Road. The NYSEG powerline from the Points of Connection to the utility pole along George Road exits the property at an angle, which helps to minimize exposure from the road. Further, for those traveling from the South, the extensive trees and brush along both sides of Virgil Creek provide effective screening while heading North.

If you have any questions regarding our analysis, please contact me at 607.227.1640 or by email at dwalker@labellapc.com.

Sincerely,

LaBella Associates

Daniel R. Walker, PE
Senior Project Engineer
walker@labellapc.com



PHOTO 1 LOOKING SOUTH WEST FROM 50 ' SOUTH OF TRAIL CROSSING

ELEVATION OF ROAD 1090 , EYE ELEVATION AT 1095 FEET

This view shows that the vegetation on the west side of the road ranges from 10 to 20 feet tall (Approximate elevation of the top of vegetation 1105 feet). The maximum elevation of the NYSEG Poles at the interconnection site is 1095 feet, which is lower than the top of vegetation at this point. The vegetation at this viewpoint effectively blocks any view of the facility.



PHOTO 2 FROM ROAD AT NORTH CORNER OF 287 GEORGE ROAD

ELEVATION OF ROAD 1084, EYE ELEVATION 1089

This view shows that the vegetation on the west side of the road ranges from 10 to 20 feet tall (Approximate elevation of the top of vegetation 1095 feet). The maximum elevation of the NYSEG Poles at the interconnection site is 1095 feet, which is at the top of vegetation at this point. The vegetation at this viewpoint effectively blocks any view of the facility.



PHOTO 3 FROM DRIVEWAY OF 287 GEORGE ROAD

ELEVATION OF ROAD 1080 FEET, EYE ELEVATION 1085 FEET

This view shows that the vegetation on the west side of the road ranges from 8 to 15 feet tall (Approximate elevation of the top of vegetation 1090 feet). The maximum elevation of the NYSEG Poles at the interconnection site is 1095 feet, which is slightly above the top of vegetation at this point. The vegetation at this viewpoint effectively blocks most the view of most of the facility except for the very top of the NYSEG Poles. The customer owned poles with a top elevation of 1087 would be effectively screened.



PHOTO 4 FROM IN FRONT OF AUTO BODY SHOP AT 283 GEORGE ROAD

ELEVATION OF ROAD 1078 FEET EYE ELEVATION AT 1083 FEET

This view shows that the brushy vegetation on the west side of the road ranges from 8 to 10 feet tall with some of the trees at 20 to 25 feet (Approximate elevation of the top of vegetation 1098 feet). The maximum elevation of the NYSEG Poles at the interconnection site is 1095 feet, which is slightly above the top of the denser vegetation at this point is slightly lower than the taller trees. The vegetation at this viewpoint effectively blocks most the view of most of the facility except for the very top of the NYSEG Poles during the summer months. The customer owned poles with a top elevation of 1087 would be effectively screened.



PHOTO 5. ACCESS ROAD OFF OF GEORGE ROAD LATE SPRING

ELEVATION OF THE ROAD AT 1060, EYE ELEVATION AT 1065 FEET

This view was taken in early spring prior to leaf cover and the poles nearest the road and on the south edge of the facility are visible. The roadside vegetation does provide significant screening. This area is just north of the Virgil Creek Bridge and there are no residences in this area.



PHOTO 5a. ACCESS ROAD OFF OF GEORGE ROAD EARLY SUMMER

This photo from the same point shows the screening in the summer months.

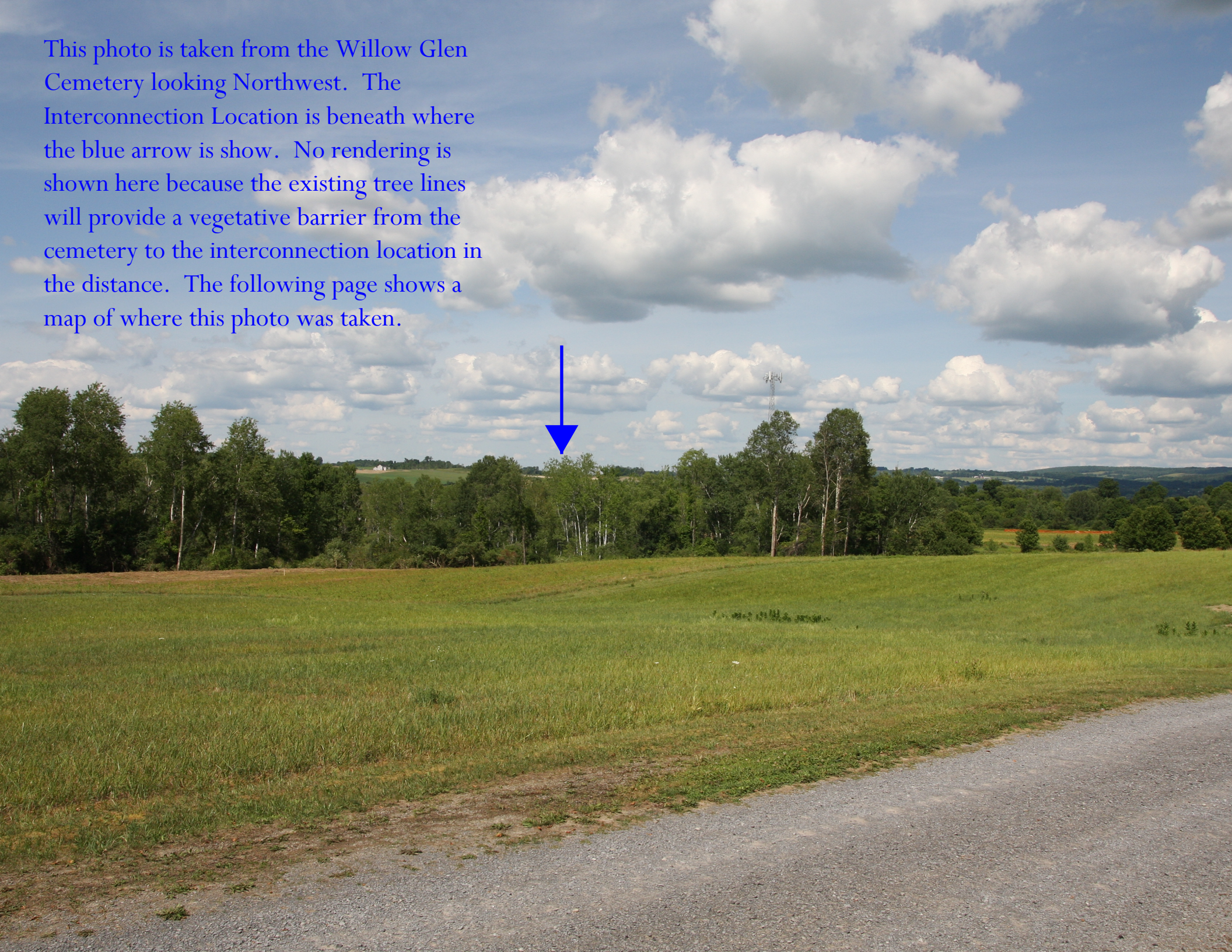


PHOTO 6 LOOKING NORTH TOWARD FROM 150 FEET SOUTH OF BRIDGE

ROAD ELEVATION 1066 FEET, EYE ELEVATION 1071 FEET

This view shows that the trees on the banks of Virgil Creek effectively block the view of the facility.

This photo is taken from the Willow Glen Cemetery looking Northwest. The Interconnection Location is beneath where the blue arrow is show. No rendering is shown here because the existing tree lines will provide a vegetative barrier from the cemetery to the interconnection location in the distance. The following page shows a map of where this photo was taken.





Google Earth

