

August 28, 2020

Stone Ridge Solar Farm
Landscape Narrative:

Existing Site and Vegetation: The site is currently undeveloped with wetlands located on the east and west side of the site and a pond located near the entrance drive at the east with a disturbed area of sand and gravel adjacent to it. The remainder of the site is vegetated uplands. During multiple site visits Traverse observed the following species on site. At the lower elevations and in the eastern portion of the site Traverse observed native species including *Myrica pennsylvanica* (Bayberry), *Vaccinium corymbosom* (Highbush blueberry), *Betula populifolia* (Gray Birch), *Acer rubrum* (Swamp red maple), *Quercus* species (Oaks), *Pinus sylvestris* (Scotts Pine) and *Pinus strobus* (White Pine). Along the slopes and into the interior of the property Traverse observed the vegetation to be predominantly composed of *Butula populifolia*, *Pinus strobus* and an understory of ferns.

Proposed Condition: The location of the proposed solar arrays is remote, being bordered on the east, west and most of the north side with wetlands and their associated buffers. Along the southern portion of the site the abutting condition is vegetated forest. The solar arrays and associated fencing have been located a minimum of 100' away from all property lines. The design intent will be to maintain as much of the surrounding 100' buffer as possible leaving enough space for the installation of a 7' perimeter fence around the solar arrays, additional vegetation where required and access for maintenance.

Along the southern side of the site beyond a substantial vegetated buffer exists the interior edge of the buffer which will be reinforced with the introduction of evergreen trees providing additional visual coverage during the winter months. These trees are comprised of native species including, *Pinus strobus* (White Pine), *Abies concolor* (White Fir), *Juniperus virginiana* (Eastern Red Cedar) and *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar). These trees will be installed in a row or staggered to create the greatest visual buffer. All trees will be installed at a minimum height of 7-8' and the mature height varies based on species from 20' - 60'.

The area underneath the solar arrays will be seeded on top of 4" to 6" of screened amended topsoil with low grow limited maintenance seed mix. This mix will be comprised of Creeping Red Fescue, Hard Fescue, Sheep Fescue, Dutch White clover and the addition of winter rye for late seeding germination if required. The mature size of these grasses will range from 8"-18".

Bio-retention areas have been proposed at low points around the site for stormwater management. These areas will be seeded with a combination of native grasses and perennials all selected for habitat creation and their ability to withstand wet conditions. In areas of greater disturbance, the edges have been planted with Birch trees and Junipers.