

Visual Impact of Development Matrix

IMPACT SEVERITY RATING

	Severe 36-27	Strong 26-18	Moderate 17-9	Low 8-0
Extreme	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]
High	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]
Medium	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]	13	[Diagonal lines]
Low	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]	[Diagonal lines]

SCENIC SIGNIFICANCE OF VIEW

Legend

[Diagonal lines]	UNACCEPTABLE. High level of visual contrast in line, form, color, or texture between existing landscape and the development proposal, view of water or other significant visual resource obstructed. Visual impacts are unreasonable even with mitigation and can not be offset by compensation.
[Diagonal lines]	ACCEPTABLE WITH MITIGATION & COMPENSATION. High degree of contrast on landscape. Project impacts may be minimized further through mitigation. Visual impacts may be acceptable with mitigation and appropriate compensation.
[Diagonal lines]	ACCEPTABLE WITH MAJOR MITIGATION. Visual impacts are acceptable with some modification to project siting or design to achieve better landscape 'fit'.
[Diagonal lines]	ACCEPTABLE WITH MINOR MITIGATION. Visual impacts are acceptable with minor adjustments to plan or siting necessary to achieve a higher level of project compatibility with existing landscape.
[Diagonal lines]	ACCEPTABLE. Visual impacts are acceptable and result in no perceptible change to the visual landscape. No mitigation required.

The visual analysis matrix should be filled out by the DEP project manager for each application pursuant to the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). The Matrix is the DEP's method for reviewing visual impacts and determining level of effort required for mitigation/reconsideration of project siting and design and/or the potential need for compensation of project impacts.

Project Manager Analysis & Recommendation:

Site visit conducted 9/6/19, see notes. Pier will be constructed of standard materials, permanent pier features will be limited to pilings at shoreline. Float size is moderate. Boat ramp will be visible but largely submerged. No public trails or parks in view. Proposed riprap is minimal. No tree removal proposed.

Scenic Significance of View

EXTREME: The project is directly visible from and located < 1000 feet of a natural landmark or other outstanding natural or cultural feature, State or National Wildlife Refuge, Sanctuary, or Preserve, National, State or local park, National, State, or locally designated trail.

HIGH: The project is directly visible from and located > 1000 feet of a natural landmark or other outstanding natural or cultural feature, State or National Wildlife Refuge, Sanctuary, or Preserve, National, State or local park, National, State, or locally designated trail.

MEDIUM: The project is directly visible from several vantage point on the water or a public way and is viewed by > than 25 people/day. The project is not visible from any natural landmark or other outstanding natural or cultural feature, State or National Wildlife Refuge, Sanctuary, or Preserve, National, State or local park, National, State, or locally designated trail. *Potentially visible to >25 ppl /day in summer*

LOW: The project is directly visible from several vantage point on the water or a public way and is viewed by < than 25 people/day. The project is not visible from any natural landmark or other outstanding natural or cultural feature, State or National Wildlife Refuge, Sanctuary, or Preserve, National, State or local park, National, State, or locally designated trail.

Visual Impact Severity Rating

			SCORING	
VISUAL ELEMENTS	VISUAL SUBELEMENTS	INDICATORS/CLUES	ELEMENT RATINGS	ELEMENT SCORE
LANDSCAPE COMPATIBILITY	COLOR	Significantly different color, line, value, chroma	3 Severe	1
			2 Moderate	
			1 Minimal	
			0 None	
	FORM	Incompatible 2/3 dimensional shape with landscape surroundings	3 Severe	2
			2 Moderate	
			1 Minimal	
			0 None	
	LINE	Incompatible edges, bands, or silhouette lines introduced	3 Severe	1
			2 Moderate	
			1 Minimal	
			0 None	
	TEXTURE	Incompatible textural grain, density, regularity or pattern	3 Severe	1
			2 Moderate	
			1 Minimal	
			0 None	
			SUBTOTAL →	5
SCALE CONTRAST		Major scale introduction/intrusion	12 Severe	↓
		One of several major scales or major objects in confined setting	8 Moderate	
		Significant object or scale	4 Minimal	
		Small object or scale of activity	0 None	
		SCORE		4
SPATIAL DOMINANCE		LANDSCAPE SITUATION BACKDROP	Object/activity dominates or is prominent in whole landscape composition; or is predominantly situated within the landscape; or dominates landform, water or sky backdrop.	↓
			12 Dominant	
			8 Co-dominant	
			4 Subordinate	
		0 Insignificant		
TOTAL VISUAL IMPACT SEVERITY		SCORE		4

Figure 12.9. Second revision of basic VIA Form: Source: Smardon, R.C. and Hunter, M., 1983, Procedures and Methods for Wetland and Coastal Area Impact Assessment (VIA. In R.C. Smardon, ed., *The Future of Wetlands: Assessing Visual-Cultural Values*. NJ: Allenheld, Osmun, 202. (Used with permission of R.C Smardon)

5
4
+4
13

Definitions Associated with Visual Impacts Assessment

- A. **Backdrop.** The distant part of a landscape location from 4 miles to infinity from the viewer.
- B. **Color.** The property of reflecting light of a particular wavelength that enables the eye to differentiate otherwise indistinguishable objects. A hue (red, green, blue, yellow, etc.) as contrasted with a value (black, white, or gray).
- C. **Contrast.** Diversity or distinction of adjacent parts. Effect of striking differences in color, form, line, or texture of a landscape.
- D. **Dominance.** The extent to which an object is noticeable when compared to the surrounding context.
- E. **Form.** The structure, mass or shape of a landscape or an object. Landscape form is often defined by the edges or outlines of landforms, rockforms, vegetation patterns, or waterforms, such as a plain, mountain, or valley.
- F. **Landform.** One of the attributes or features that may up the Earth's surface, such as a plain, mountain, or valley.
- G. **Landscape.** An area composed of interacting ecosystems that are repeated because of geology, landform, soils, climate, biota, and human influences throughout that area.
- H. **Landscape Character or Landscape Composition.** Particular attributes, qualities, and traits of a landscape that give it an image and make it identifiable or unique.
- I. **Landscape compatibility.** The elements of color, form, line, and texture that typically determine landscape character.
- J. **Line.** Anything that is arranged in a row or sequence. In landscapes -- ridges, skylines, structures, changes in vegetation, or individual trees and branches -- may be perceived as line.
- K. **Scale Contrast.** The degree to which an activity or object dominates or intrudes into a landscape or confined setting.
- L. **Situation.** The position of the activity or object within the landscape.
- M. **Spatial Dominance.** The degree to which an activity or object dominates the landscape; is prominently situated within the landscape; or dominates landform, waterform, or sky backdrop.
- N. **Texture.** The grain of a landscape or repetitive pattern of tiny forms, Visual Texture can range from smooth to coarse.
- O. **Visual Elements.** The landscape's components that make up the overall visual character of a landscape.
- P. **Waterform.** One of the attributes or features that make up the Earth's surface, such as a pond, lake, stream, river, waterfall, estuary, or oceans.