The image above is a +/- 124° panorama photograph from the Bass River State Forest, panning clockwise from northeast-east (left) to south (right). The yellow rectangle within the photo represents the extent of the photosimulation photo(s).
This view is from Bass River State Forest in Bass River Township, New Jersey. It is located approximately 25 miles north of Atlantic City and 6 miles west of Tuckerton. Bass River was the first forest acquired by the State of New Jersey (in 1905) and totals 29,147 acres. The center of the Forest’s recreational activities is 67-acre Lake Abegami, which provides opportunities for swimming, boating, and canoeing. Other recreational opportunities offered at the Forest include hiking, camping, fishing, picnicking, and cross-country skiing. The selected viewpoint is located at the edge of a large salt marsh. The view to the southeast from this location includes a broad expanse of marsh grass and low shrubs that extend to the horizon, where some clumps of distant trees and low hills are visible. The horizon line is slightly irregular but basically flat. The sky overhead is open and visible man-made features are limited to distant structures on the low hills in the background. This, along with the lack of tall vegetation, gives the viewer an open, expansive, and undisturbed character.

Ratings panel members indicated that the existing view is a combination of highly textured marshland with groupings of low scrub vegetation scattered throughout the view; however, there is limited visual complexity to the composition of the grasses, shrubs, and sky. The wide-open view across the marshland will be experienced by visitors over a short period of time as they move along the walking trails. The band of man-made structures in the background view contrasts with the deep greens of the low, undulating topography and the light green tones of the middle ground vegetation. The general lack of competitive landscape features enhances the expansive feel of the view and draws the viewer’s eye to the horizon.

Rating panel scores for the existing conditions photographs ranged from 10.6 to 11.2 (average SCQ score = 10.8). This SCQ score suggests this KOP has moderate scenic quality.

Viewshed analysis suggests that the Project’s visibility from this general area will be largely limited to the open marsh, with potential views completely screened in more wooded areas as one moves further inland (to the northwest).

With the proposed Project in place, looking at the southeast view the WTG rotor blades are almost indiscernible behind the undulating topography and man-made elements on the horizon. In addition, there is no visibility to the ocean horizon, and the Project occupies approximately 31-degrees or 8.6% percent of the view (see Field of View Image, left). Project visibility is mitigated by the relative proximity of the WTGs (18.47-miles) and their side lighting by the near midday sun, which shadows the WTGs against the sky. The rating panel scores indicate an average reduction of 0.3 points in comparison to the existing view indicating a negligible magnitude of impact. Individual rating panel members indicated reductions that ranged from 0.3 to 0.7. Panel members suggested that the presence of the WTGs would be minimally noticeable to most viewers, since the viewer’s attention is focused on the foreground and the middle ground of the existing, natural environment. The movement of the rotor blades could attract the viewer’s attention; however, the visual intrusion is not considered severe enough to be a substantial reduction in the overall scenic quality of the view. In addition, the visibility of the WTGs is likely to be reduced under more hazy or foggy sky conditions. With the Project in place, the scenic quality remains moderate.

Considering the scale, compatibility, and spatial dominance factors that influenced the visual impact rating at this KOP, the rating panel indicated that the WTGs present minimal scale contrast, are compatible with the existing landscape features such as water resources, landform, and vegetation. The panel scores also suggest that the Project is somewhat compatible with user activity. Consistent with the anticipated compatibility, scale contrast, and spatial dominance impacts associated with the Project, panel members assigned the Project visibility an average VTL of 2 from this KOP.
Existing Conditions
This scale is designed to insure the photosimulation images are printed at the intended size. Printed at 100% the resulting photosimulation size is 15 inches wide by 10 inches high. At this size and focal length, the photosimulation should be viewed from a distance of 21 inches.