

Dear Planning Board,

I was pleased to learn that the Board has elected to engage a landscape consultant to review RIC's screening proposal for our home. At the appropriate time, I would be happy to invite their representatives to meet us on our property to assess the terrain challenges in person, as this will assist them in their forthcoming review.

Per your 10/29 working meeting and numerous prior Public Hearings on this topic, it is clear that the visual impact of the proposed industrial Ancram solar array is a major concern of our broader community. I've heard RIC Energy state several times that they came to our home to discuss screening and now feel they have satisfied us with their proposed landscaping plan. [On 10/3, The New Pine Plains Herald](#) reported on the 9/25 Planning Board meeting at which RIC Energy participated. In it, the author cites RIC Project Manager Rob Quierolo: "Queirolo said only one property abutted the solar site. "We met with the homeowner and provided the landscape screening they asked for," he said."

After being [curiously omitted](#) from RIC's [original Nov 2024 Visual Impact Assessment](#), we did indeed meet with Mr. Quierolo at our home back in the spring of 2025. As lay people, who have never negotiated with an international energy development company before, and unaware at that time of RIC's legal requirements (see [Ancram Solar Law](#) 4.M. - "*The Solar energy system...shall be located and maximally screened within 5 years in such a way as to avoid or minimize visual impacts as viewed from: ...ii. Existing residential dwellings located on contiguous parcels*") we thought their evergreen screening offer was better than nothing. Now, after attending numerous Planning Board meetings, reading local laws, and hearing from experts like Town consultant Nan Stolzenburg, we better understand RIC's obligations to neighbors like us, and STRONGLY DISAGREE that RIC's proposed solution is acceptable.

My wife countered Mr. Quierolo's assertion in her [comment to the article on October 13th](#). In it she noted "Due to the sloping terrain, the new saplings will also be planted significantly below the grade level of our home, rendering them useless for screening, and failing to meet the legal requirement for achieving maximum coverage within 5 years." My wife also points out the not so inconsequential fact that per the Site Plan, the area identified for these plantings appears to be outside of the lease area that RIC has with the Millers for this array project. ([See page C200 of the Sept 2025 Site Plan](#))

What RIC has never shared with the Planning Board or the community is a cross sectional view of the topography from our property to the two array sections showing just how high trees would have to be to "avoid or minimize visual impacts" as viewed from our home.

Again, per RIC's own September 2025 Site Plan ([see PLANT SCHEDULE on page C402](#)) - the 7' evergreens proposed to screen our home are expected to reach a max height of 15'-17' in 5 years. However, according to my rudimentary calculations, even this optimist projection will fall far short of the required height to provide adequate screening.

As shown in the picture below taken from our home, my wife can be seen holding a standard 4-ft level to create a reasonably accurate scale and provide context in this landscape. It certainly appears that 7' saplings planted downhill (blue arrow) behind our property line (the stone wall), even after reaching their RIC projected 5-year height of 15'-17', will not provide any useful screening from the acres of array panels built on the field facing our home (indicated with red arrows).



RIC frequently repeats their false claim that they meet screening requirements without any onsite analysis to back it up. We look forward to the expert opinion of landscape consultant firm Wagner Hodgson to review RIC's proposal. We are confident that once they study the situation, they will recognize the inadequacy of RIC's current screening proposal.

Thank you for your continued careful review of RIC's application.

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