

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
CATSKILL/DELAWARE UV FACILITY
METHODOLOGIES**

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3.6. NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

3.6.1. Introduction

The character of a neighborhood is a composite of elements that give a neighborhood its identity, including land use patterns, urban design, visual resources, historic resources, socioeconomic characteristics, traffic, and noise. These elements are evaluated individually in other sections of this document; however, an analysis of a neighborhood's character considers how these elements combine and interact to create the context and feel of a neighborhood.

3.6.2. Baseline Conditions

3.6.2.1. Existing Conditions

3.6.2.1.1. Eastview Site

The existing character of the Eastview Site and associated off-site work locations was described using publications and information collected during field surveys, such as land use data, photographs, and data associated with other parameters evaluated in this document (refer to [Section 3.3](#), Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Visual Character; [Section 3.7](#), Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Socioeconomic Conditions; [Section 3.9](#), Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Traffic and Transportation; etc.).

3.6.2.1.2. Study Area

The existing character of the neighborhood surrounding the project site(s) was described using publications and information collected during field surveys, such as land use data, photographs, and data associated with other parameters evaluated in this document (refer to [Section 3.3](#), Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Visual Character; [Section 3.7](#), Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Socioeconomic Conditions; [Section 3.9](#), Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Traffic and Transportation; etc.). The study area examined in the Neighborhood Character analysis corresponds to the study area delineated for the Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy analysis. In addition, supplemental documents, including *Patterns for Westchester: The Land and the People*,¹ were consulted.

3.6.2.2. Future Without the Project

Planning departments were consulted about future development, planning policies, and zoning changes that may affect the project site(s) and study area ([Section 3.2](#), Data Collection and Impact Methodologies; Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy). The NYCDEP was consulted about future developments that may occur on the Eastview Site in the absence of the proposed facility. Also, observations noted during field visits, photographs, data from various other sections within this document, and previous studies by the municipalities were used to project conditions in the Future Without the Project.

¹ *Patterns for Westchester: the Land and the People* is Westchester County's long range planning policy document. This document is available on the Internet at: <http://www.westchestergov.com/patterns/>.

3.6.3. Potential Impacts

3.6.3.1. Potential Project Impacts

The potential for the project to result in significant changes to neighborhood character was assessed. Potential impacts to neighborhood character may be related to project impacts associated with other parameters evaluated in this document, including land use, transportation, open space, visual character, noise, and socioeconomic conditions. The discussion of potential changes to neighborhood character addresses the potential impacts identified in these other analyses and the extent to which they disrupt or change the existing or future anticipated characteristics of the project site(s) and study area. Also, the accumulation of moderate impacts in the study area may be considered significant if the cumulative effect would adversely and permanently alter neighborhood character.

3.6.3.2. Potential Construction Impacts

The areas affected by construction were determined based on the proposed limits of construction activity and the surrounding areas affected by construction-related disturbances. The impact analysis was conducted in a similar fashion to that described in the Potential Project Impacts section, above.

3.6.4. Mitigation

Specific mitigation measures were developed when significant adverse impacts were identified. Mitigation measures were developed to reduce or eliminate potential impacts associated with other parameters evaluated in this document, including land use, open space, noise, traffic, aesthetics, and socioeconomic conditions, all of which contribute to neighborhood character.