

West Point Visual Impact Assessment



Description

FHI completed a visual impact assessment for a proposed natural gas pipeline to serve the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. The proposed pipeline route is located to the west of the Academy crossing segment of the Hudson Highlands. The Military Academy is both a national historical register site and national historical landmark. The Hudson River Valley where the Academy is located in is also a designated National Heritage Area. FHI assessed the potential visual impact of the proposed pipeline route to historical resources both on the Academy grounds and within the Hudson River Valley. The steep slope and sweeping vistas of the river valley, in combination with the major historical resources in the area required a detailed visual impact assessment be conducted utilizing the most technologically advanced tools available.

Through the use of geographic information system (GIS) software and photo-manipulation software, FHI is conducting viewshed exposure analysis, line-of-sight analysis, and creating, through photo-manipulation, presenting future viewscape perspectives. Utilizing GIS three-dimensional modeling and spatial analysis tools, exposure mapping is being conducted to identify locations where the pipeline route would be highly visible. FHI is then manipulating existing views to realistically present future conditions.

This analysis was utilized both within a federal Environmental Assessment and as supporting information for permit applications for the New York State Department of Conservation.

Client

U.S. Military Academy

