

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Nestlewood Solar I LLC)	
for a Certificate of Environmental)	Case No. 18-1546-EL-BGN
Compatibility and Public Need)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ANDREW ENGLISH

Q.1. Please state your name, title and business address.

A.1. My name is Andrew English. I am an owner and a principal landscape architect at PLANIT Studios. My business address is 500 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 314, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

Q.2. What are your duties as a principal landscape architect?

A.2. I oversee and work with a professional team that is dedicated to serving our customers with landscape architecture, graphic design, and strategic planning (we call it wayfinding) services for a wide range of projects.

Q.3. What is your educational and professional background?

A.3. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Contracting from Pennsylvania State University, followed by a Master of Landscape Architecture from The Ohio State University. I have over 23 years of experience in design and management of site design projects, including numerous projects that incorporate landscaping and its effects.

Q.4. On whose behalf are you offering testimony?

A.4. I am testifying on behalf of the Applicant, Nestlewood Solar I LLC (“Nestlewood”) in support of its application filed in Case No. 18-1546-EL-BGN for the Nestlewood Solar Project (“Project”).

1 **Q.5. Have you reviewed the Joint Stipulation filed in this case on June 12, 2019?**

2 **A.5.** Yes.

3 **Q.6. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

4 **A.6.** The purpose of my testimony is to discuss the minimization of the Project's visual
5 impact using screening, specifically landscape plant material. I have worked with ArchAll, an
6 architectural firm located at 49. E. 3rd Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201, and Nestlewood to
7 consider effective strategies for use in limited locations where views of the Project may be of
8 concern.

9 **Q.7. What will be the Visual Impact of the Project?**

10 **A.7.** The Project will be visible from certain properties near the Project Area. The
11 Application included a visual impact assessment ("VIA") to evaluate the visual impact of the
12 Project. The VIA was attached to the Application as Appendix J. Importantly, the VIA evaluated
13 Project visibility before the implementation of any mitigation measures. As reflected in the VIA,
14 mitigation measures – in the form of vegetative screening – will be offered to obstruct or soften
15 views of the Project, where appropriate.

16 As described in the Application, retaining the majority of the wooded areas within the Project Area
17 is expected to provide natural screening for the majority of the Project. In addition, screening
18 methods will be implemented for non-participating residences in close proximity to the Project, as
19 described in Joint Stipulation Condition 12, which requires that:

20 the Applicant shall prepare a landscape and lighting plan that addresses the
21 aesthetic and lighting impacts of the facility where an adjacent non-participating
22 parcel contains a residence with a direct line of sight to the project area. The plan
23 shall include measures such as alternate fencing, vegetative screening, good
24 neighbor agreements, or other measures subject to staff review.
25

1 PLANIT and ArchAll have been asked to develop and illustrate conceptual approaches to such
2 Project screening that reflect potential landscaping options. Three landscaping scenarios are
3 attached to Mr. Jordan's testimony as Company Exhibit 14, and to my testimony as Attachment 1.

4 **Q.8. Please describe the conceptual landscape plans.**

5 **A.8.** PLANIT and ArchAll have developed three mitigation options that could be
6 implemented along the Project fenceline. All of the landscaping scenarios have been developed
7 using broad spreading plants native to, and with a demonstrated track record of success in, Ohio.
8 Species have been selected with nursery availability in mind as well. For optimal success, younger
9 plant material would be planted; the illustrations of the landscaping scenarios reflect the
10 appearance approximately 8-10 years from initial planting with ideal growing conditions.

11 The Tall Screening option would only be an option in specific locations along the northern
12 boundary of the Project, where shading would not occur on the solar panels. This option
13 incorporates a mixture of shorter and taller species to create interest and to allow for greater
14 vegetative fill along the fenceline. Representative species selected are: Spruce, Pine, Oak, Maple
15 and Elm.

16 The Medium and Light Screening landscaping scenarios could be applied in select locations at any
17 point along the Project fenceline, as the shorter height of the plantings in combination with the
18 distance from panels would not be expected to increase panel shading. The Medium Screening
19 scenario combines slightly taller and shorter mixed deciduous and evergreen plantings. The use
20 of different sizes and species allows for a more natural appearance. The Light Screening scenario
21 staggers a variety of lower growing evergreen species along the fenceline.

22 **Q.9. Please describe the intended application of the landscape plans.**

1 **A.9.** The diagram attached to Mr. Jordan’s testimony as Company Exhibit 15 identifies
2 areas surrounding the Project in which non-participating residences may be most likely to be
3 affected by views of the Project, and which of three conceptual landscaping plans would best fit
4 that area. The landscaping scenario would then be selected, refined if necessary, and implemented.

5 **Q.10. Please describe the visual effect of the landscape plans.**

6 **A.10.** Each of the three conceptual landscaping plans would provide a visual buffer
7 between a viewer and the Project. In the simulated views of the landscaping scenarios, included
8 as Company Exhibit 14 and attached to my testimony, a viewer from a stationary vehicle on the
9 road would be approximately 70-150 feet from the Project fence. For the Tall Screening scenario,
10 glimpses of fence and panels would be viewed from certain angles, but the massing appears denser
11 when not looking directly at the Project. With the variability of plantings reflected in the Medium
12 Screening scenario, visibility of fencing and panels would also be variable. However, the differing
13 shapes of species creates an organic pattern of vegetation that breaks up and obscures the Project
14 to a great degree. When using the Light Screening scenario, the use of more limited varieties of
15 evergreen species allows for a slightly denser screening of the Project, although with a more
16 regimented and consistent feel. However, each of these conceptual plans would provide for a
17 meaningful visual buffer when looking towards the Project. Note that residential viewers would
18 be at a greater distance, as non-participating residences are located on the opposite side of the road
19 from the Project. Therefore, the screening effect would be expected to be greater.

20 **Q.11. What is the goal of screening for this type of project?**

21 **A.11.** The goal of visual screening or mitigation is not to prevent a project from being
22 seen entirely. The use of an opaque “green wall” approach is generally not desirable or effective,
23 because it tends to contrast with the existing visual character of the surrounding area and actually

1 draws viewer attention because it looks out of place. Instead, the goal is to soften the appearance
2 of the project so that it blends more effectively into the background.

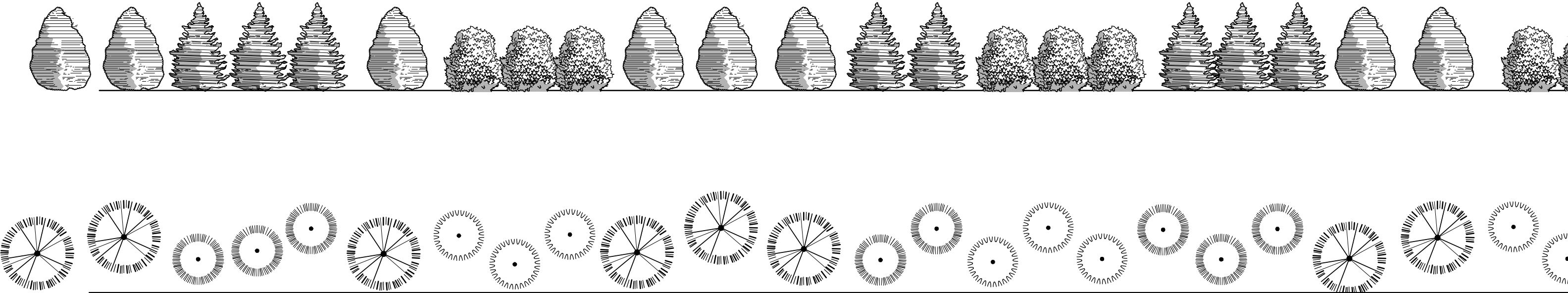
3 **Q.12. Would the conceptual screening as you've described be effective in achieving this**
4 **goal?**

5 **A.12.** Yes. In my experience working with a number of different projects in a number of
6 different settings, this type of screening has been very effective in screening the views of a project
7 from nearby residences and other viewers. As the plant material establishes it will begin to fill in
8 to create a natural looking screen, thus minimizing the visual impact. The different types of plant
9 material we have chosen will provide screening throughout the year.

10 **Q.13. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

11 **A.13.** Yes.





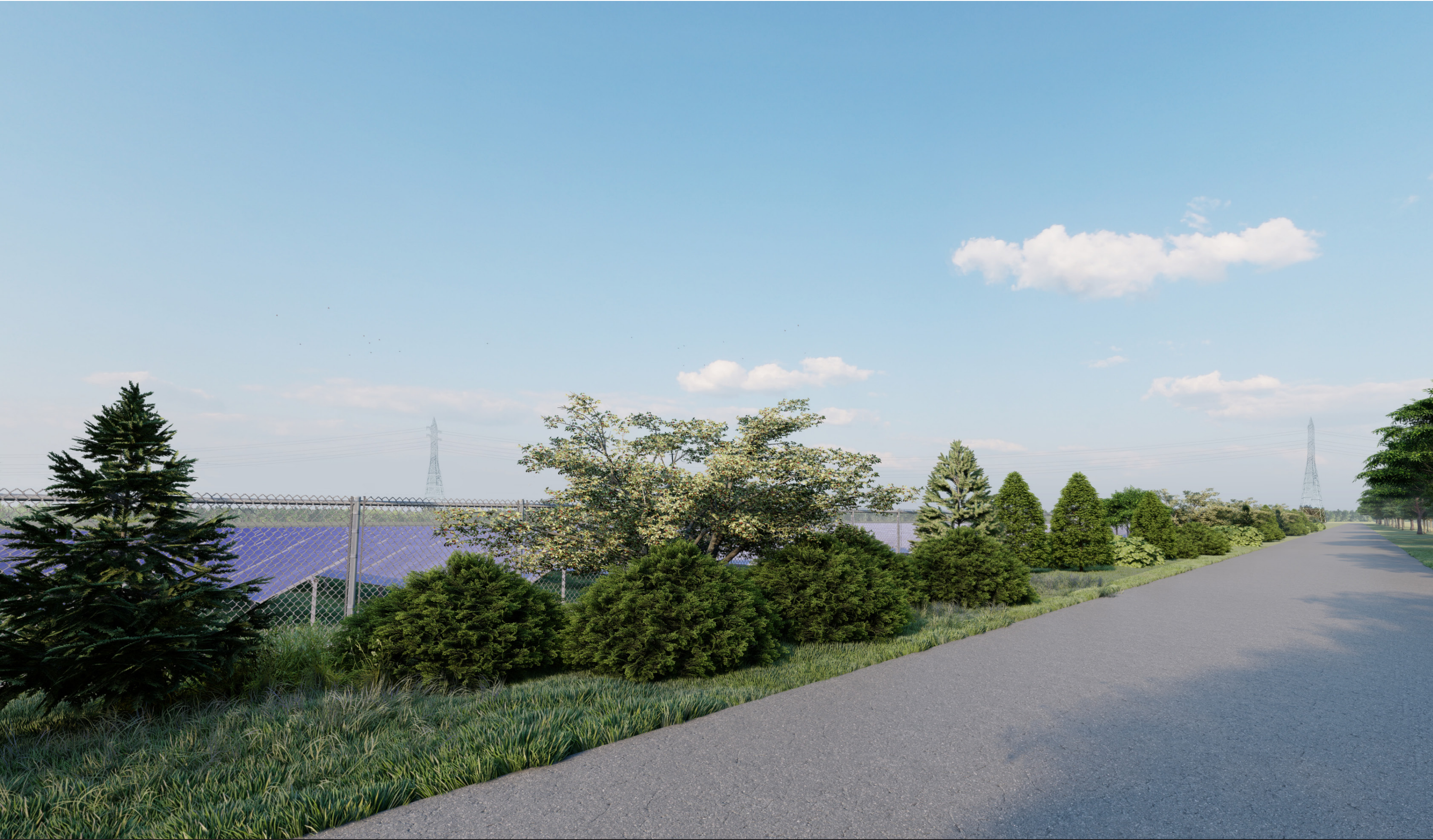
Hooks Juniper



Techny Arborvitae



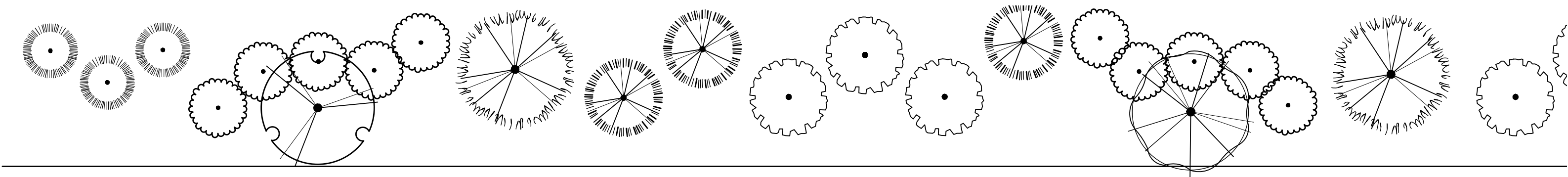
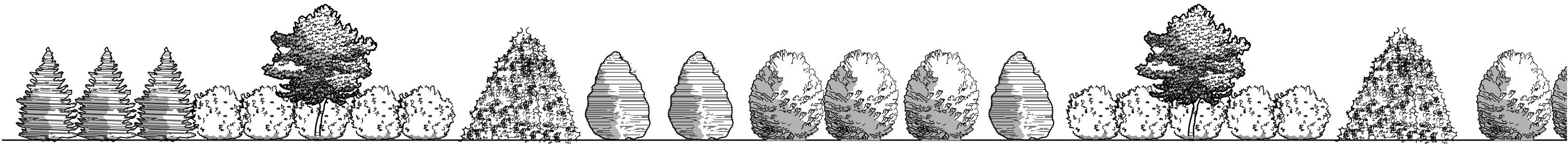
Hicksii Taxus



Medium Screening Simulation

Tate & Clark Townships,
Brown & Clermont County,
Ohio

Nestlewood Solar



Hooks Juniper



Sargent Crabapple



Fat Albert Spruce



Sea Green Juniper



Crusader Hawthorne



Techny Arborvitae



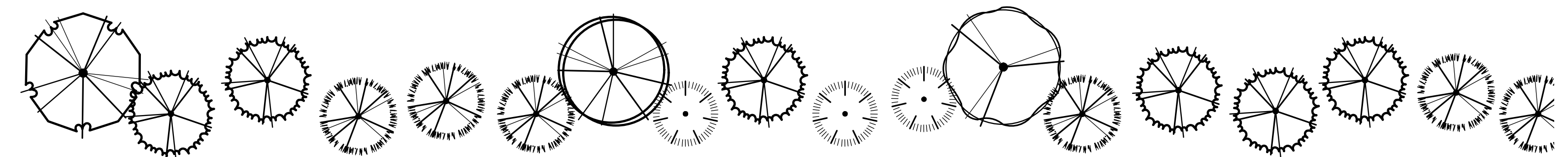
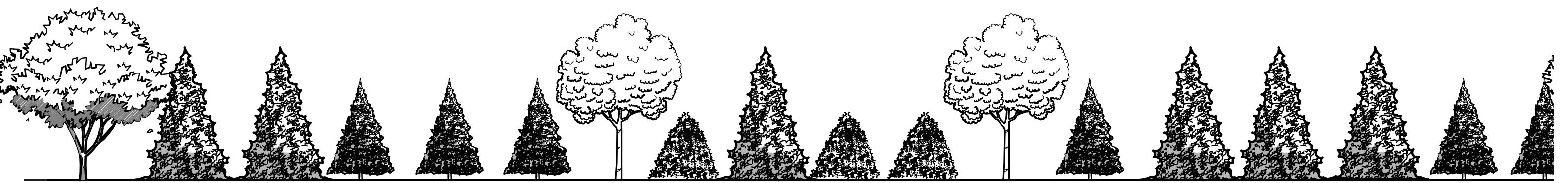
Arrowwood Viburnum

Medium Screening Simulation

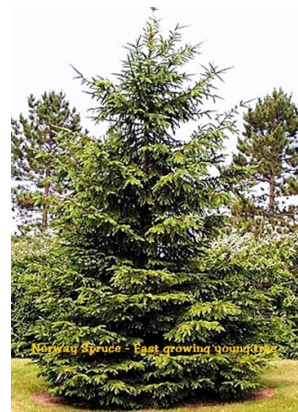
Tate & Clark Townships,
Brown & Clermont County,
Ohio

Nestlewood Solar





Oak



Norway Spruce



Austrian Pine



Elm



Maple

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Summary: Testimony Direct Testimony of Andrew English electronically filed by Mr. MacDonald W Taylor on behalf of Nestlewood Solar I LLC