

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Sarah Briasco
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Letter Opposing Corby BESS Project site

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project because it places the people of this community at unacceptable risk for the financial benefit of an out-of-state corporation. This project forces local families, farmers, and longtime residents to shoulder the danger of a catastrophic industrial accident while the developer absorbs the profits. That is fundamentally unjust. A facility with the potential for toxic gas release, fires that last for days, and long-term contamination is not a “neighbor” it is a daily threat, a ticking time bomb placed beside our homes, schools, and farms. No resident should have to live with the constant fear that a thermal runaway event could poison their children, their land, their pets, or their future.

One of the most alarming unanswered questions is who will be responsible for cleanup outside the project’s fence line if a thermal runaway event occurs. When toxic smoke settles on homes, soil, crops, and water wells, who pays to decontaminate them? Will the developer cover the cost of cleaning private property, or will that burden fall back onto local taxpayers, strained emergency services, and families who had no say in this risk? It is unacceptable to move forward without a legally binding, independently managed cleanup fund specifically designated for full-scale environmental and property restoration. Promises and trust are not protection guaranteed funding is.

Emergency response planning is another major gap. Notification systems like texts or phone alerts are useless when a plume of toxic fumes can travel across a neighborhood in minutes. Residents need an immediate, redundant, fail-proof warning method, something that will alert people the moment danger arises. We also need clearly defined evacuation routes that account for traffic bottlenecks and high-wind conditions that could rapidly push smoke toward homes. And evacuation planning must include our livestock and pets, because our farms are our livelihoods and our animals are our family. Leaving them out of the plan is not an oversight, it is negligence.

Equally important is establishing a safe return protocol. If a major incident occurs, who determines that the air, soil, and water are safe? How will contamination thresholds be measured, and what standards will be used? These tests must be conducted by independent third-party environmental specialists not by consultants hired by the project developer. We cannot allow the same entity responsible for the contamination to be the one declaring everything “safe.” Community trust requires independence, transparency, and oversight.

The residents of this area are not opposing clean energy, we are opposing reckless siting. A project with credible catastrophic potential must not be placed yards from homes, farms, and schools. Until long-term safety is proven, the only responsible choice is to deny the Corby BESS project at this location.

Our lives, our land, and our future are worth far more than a company’s profit.

Sincerely,
Sarah Briasco