

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Colleen Britton

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Revised water containment plan for a worst-case scenario

To: Members of the California Energy Commission

After reviewing the Preliminary Staff Report for the Corby Project, we found several deficiencies which need to be addressed satisfactorily before approval can be granted.

We request a COMPREHENSIVE revised water containment plan for a “worst-case scenario.”

NextEra Energy Inc., applicant and owner of the Corby Project, is also the owner of another Lithium battery storage center, East Hampton Energy Storage Center, in Suffolk County, New York. In 2023 there was a “thermal runaway” fire at that facility.

Fire suppression sprinklers ran for 30 hours straight. A flood of 2.2 million gallons of water was released and mixed with perfluoropropionic acid (PFPrA) from the battery storage systems. With no on-site containment, much of that water ran down toward what the water authority calls its Bridgehampton Well Field.

A June lawsuit by the Suffolk County Water Authority against NextEra Energy alleges that at least two of the water authority’s drinking water wells have been impacted by forever chemicals following a 2023 fire. Those wells have tested positive for PFPrA, an ultrashort-chain PFAS compound, at levels close to 400 times higher than what New York State says are safe to drink. The wells had to be closed.

Town Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez called for changes at the facility that would protect the groundwater in the event of another fire “specifically, a revised final emergency action and safety plan to be submitted for approval to the town board.

According to Gonzalez, “The revised plan must describe the suppression systems as actually installed; state, with a documented methodology, the maximum volume of suppression water a worst-case thermal runaway at full installed capacity could generate; specify how every gallon of that volume will be collected, contained, characterized, and lawfully disposed of, with zero discharge to soil, groundwater, surface water, or any adjoining property.”

“In granting the site plan and special permit approval, the town materially relied on the representations made by the applicant,” she added. “Based on recent information, the town understands that the applicant’s representations to the town may not have been accurate.”

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Vacaville-Dixon residents don’t want to make the same mistake. We get all our drinking water from local wells.

We realize that the Corby Project doesn’t have a water suppression system built in like the Suffolk County system did—however it states in the EIR under worker safety page 4.4.38 that industry standards are to let the fire burn out while spraying adjacent units with water. So,

water would be used and there's a potential to mix with the smoke plume carrying the contamination downstream.

We demand the same kind of detailed plan, **BEFORE the Corby Project can be approved by the CEC**. We need a documented methodology, the maximum volume of suppression water a worst-case thermal runaway at full installed capacity could generate; specify how every gallon of that volume will be collected, contained, characterized, and lawfully disposed of, with zero discharge to soil, groundwater, surface water.

No such plan has been laid out in detail in the CEC Preliminary Draft. This is an unacceptable.

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Provide **"new engineering controls capable of containing all fire water and runoff, complete and certified technical information, a hazardous-waste management plan.**

Aug 6, 2026 article in the East Hampton Sun:

https://www.easthamptonstar.com/government/202686/supervisor-demands-emergency-action-plan-battery-center?fbclid=IwZnRzaATszPdwZG9mAWZkaWQWUMgR-uv1rNaRPBmQfBzWADGXngENG2V4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2lkDzE3Mzg0NzY0MjY3MDM3MAABHlfqR8ymtyaEzQ87yaVSzTKnyPwpOAWziOI7g6rNTFlt2PyEbDibYNy0zaAy_aem_5Z4ESMVZzIVDH8U29j-7OQ

Thank you for your consideration,

Colleen Britton
Vacaville, CA