

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	260201
Document Title:	Eric Romingquet Comments - No BESS In Vacaville
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Eric Romingquet
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/21/2024 10:00:44 AM
Docketed Date:	11/21/2024

*Comment Received From: Eric Romingquet
Submitted On: 11/21/2024
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05*

No BESS In Vacaville

Please see the attached as it relates to NOT allowing a BESS facility in residential areas in Vacaville, Ca

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

It has become a reality that Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), especially those utilizing lithium-ion batteries, will pose safety risks for residential areas. Some key concerns include:

1. Fire and Thermal Runaway Risks

- **Thermal Runaway:** Lithium-ion batteries are prone to a phenomenon where excessive heat triggers a self-sustaining reaction, causing the battery to overheat further. This can lead to fires that are difficult to extinguish.
- **Toxic Gases:** Fires in BESS facilities can release hazardous gases, such as hydrogen fluoride, which pose health risks to nearby residents.

2. Explosion Hazards

- In cases where damaged or improperly maintained batteries can release gases that, when ignited, cause explosions. The pressure and energy released could affect nearby structures.

3. Environmental Impact

- Spills or leaks from damaged batteries can release toxic materials into the environment, contaminating soil and water, which is especially concerning in densely populated residential areas.

4. Noise and Vibration

- BESS facilities often require cooling systems and power electronics that can produce continuous noise and vibrations, potentially disturbing residents.

5. Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)

- The electrical components of a BESS can generate electromagnetic fields, which, although typically low-level, might be a concern for sensitive electronics or health-conscious individuals.

6. Space and Aesthetic Concerns

- BESS facilities require significant space, which might not blend well with residential neighborhoods. They could also reduce property values due to perceived risks or unattractive infrastructure.

7. Emergency Response Challenges

- Residential areas often lack the specialized fire-fighting and response resources required to handle BESS incidents, increasing the risk to nearby homes and people.

Addressing Safety Concerns

When BESS facilities are proposed near residential areas, robust safety measures must be implemented, including:

- Advanced fire suppression systems.
- Properly ventilated enclosures to prevent gas accumulation.
- Strategic site selection and zoning to create adequate buffers from residential buildings.
- Regular maintenance and monitoring to identify and mitigate risks early.
- Community engagement to educate and address concerns.

Governments and industry stakeholders are increasingly setting regulations and standards to ensure the safe deployment of BESS, but these facilities still require careful consideration when located near homes.

Please do not allow any company to circumvent what our local government has implemented through public input and thorough safety research.