

**From:** [Chris Powicki](#)  
**To:** [SitingBoard Filing \(DPU\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Climate Act Pre-Filing Engagement & Community Benefit Plan Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:15:02 PM

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Greetings - thank you for the opportunity to review the straw proposal materials and offer comment.

As a professional and advocate, over the past 25 years I have researched, monitored, and participated in numerous siting and permitting processes for clean energy facilities across the United States and authored numerous white papers, articles, and other information resources addressing the benefits and the life-cycle environmental, health, and safety aspects of utility-scale solar, wind, and battery storage.

Based on these experiences but lacking time for fulsome comment, I recommend the following:

**The Commonwealth's processes and guidelines should (1) promote the use of a social license framework for pre-filing engagement in order to de-conflict siting and permitting; and (2) foster and incentivize community benefits intrinsic to, not ancillary to, clean energy facility operations, including but not limited to equitable access, bill savings, emission reduction, and reliability and resilience.**

These opportunities are explored in more detail in an EPRI white paper, "Community-Based Siting and Permitting for Grid-Scale Lithium Ion Battery Storage," completed in Fall 2024 based on my research and analysis and made publicly available after the large-scale battery fire at Moss Landing early this year. The content most relevant to the recommendations above appears on pp. 14-21.

I cannot distribute this research product under EPRI contract terms, but it can be downloaded, for free, at the link below:

<https://www.epri.com/research/sectors/technology/results/3002031624>

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comment - and to recommend reading.

Please reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Chris Powicki

