

My letter was too large, I am e mailing it separately:

Question:

Q. Are you commenting on a Straw proposal?

A. Yes

Q. If yes, which one?

A. EFSB permitting Dashboard

I am a member of the public

Name: Marie Wickham

Comment on Site Suitability Straw man:

1. Q. Are the proposed evaluation criteria appropriate?

A. NO.

2. Q. Are the criteria that should bar applied to certain types of infrastructure and not others?

A. Yes: immutable setbacks from residential property lines should be established and mandated for any BESS!

BESS setbacks and safety criteria

The commission of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) specific criteria in the Massachusetts Site suitability Straw man proposal is a significant safety concern. Recent catastrophic BESS failures - including a major fire in January 2025 - demonstrate that even with adherence to NFPA 855 standards and UL 9540A testing, too many failure modes remain Unaddressed!

For example, in Boston, as a direct abutter, Flatiron Energy is proposing a 300 MW/1200 MWh BESS on 35 Electric Avenue in Brighton, it will be approximately 25 feet from residential property lines 17. This proposal has faced pushback from us, as residents and abutters : we have organized as concerned citizens as “Empower Brighton and Allston” to keep our neighbors connected and informed on this very serious issue facing our safety and future. Particularly in light of recent BESS fires with toxic flumes of smoke, that carry environmental and public health hazard, numerous concerns, soil contamination, and fires that have caused mass evacuations and burned for days!

The BPDA has admitted that they have NO training protocols in place to deal with lithium fires of a 50,000 square foot facility. This is irresponsible to let the developer to get this far through the article 80 process as you have without any of these protocols or any zoning for these facilities in place. **A BESS facility should be nowhere near anyone’s home, and this proposed 35 Electric Ave, Brighton project is 30 FEET, from the back yard of abutters on Converse and Parsons Street.**

Can you image the fear .. we the abutters, residents, neighbors, families have over this proposed project!!! No to BESS in Brighton!!!

The proposed site at 35 Electric Avenue, is in a highly populated residential area, highly trafficked by automobile, cyclists and foot traffic. It is adjacent to the Mass turnpike and the Amtrak transit system. We are 500 feet from the Charles River, which is used by the community to row, boating, and walk around the river, it is a privilege to have such a river, this will be putting our environment and the health of our community at risk with this proposed BESS facility. Our lives and community have value, this proposal site is not suitable for this densely populated area!

Also as new apartment developments are being built on Soldiers field road and new proposed building of apartments on the corner of Goodenough street and north Beacon Street, will add hundreds more residents to the already densely populated area. The Faneuil gardens public housing is a few hundred feet away,

filled with families , two thriving garage businesses, a very busy towing company with its parking lot on Goodenough street, a high end car parking lot for excess car storage, and a new business of a lock smith business. New parks are being developed on the Leo Birmingham parkway. New popular venues in Brighton, music halls, the Ice Warrior Arena, a new train station in Brighton all attract large amounts of people daily.... Noise from BESS facilities can disturb wildlife, affect health and well being, and can be hear very clearly!! This BESS proposal should not be in such a densely populated area, if a fire erupted this would be a navigational nightmare!! Evacuation on already jammed roads... families of young children, older generations with disabilities... Fires from BESS facilities have burned for days... this is not a future I want to see for Brighton!!! This proposal should be denied, as it would not be safe in our densely populated neighborhood!!

Thank you for your consideration.