

# **LINN COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

February 8, 2023

Battery Energy Storage Systems Meeting #2  
Meeting Summary



# Battery Energy Storage System Discussion

- The BESS committee approved the summary from their January 26, 2023 meeting, then the group reviewed priorities that were set during that meeting, and agreed the priorities generally remained the same.
- All five members of the BESS committee were present for this meeting which took place in the Linn County Informal Board Room from 9:00am – 11am
- Linn County Building Official Luke Maloney was present for the first half of the meeting to answer questions related to building codes and BESS.

## Priorities

- Safety – public and first responders
  - Setbacks
  - Gas detection/monitoring - redundancy
  - Emergency management plan – include blast radius info.
- Environmental
- Standards/References

# BESS Discussion

- The first half of the meeting was spent discussing committee questions related to Linn County building/fire codes related to BESS with the Linn County Building Official, Luke Maloney.
- Some group members had found code released by the National Fire Protection Agency that addressed standards for the installation of stationary energy storage systems (NFPA 855), and wanted to discuss whether these should be adopted.
- Luke Maloney said the County has adopted the 2021 IFC and referenced Ch. 1207 related to BESS. He said the IFC standard was written by people that later went on to write NFPA 855, and he said he believed that IFC provided more than adequate safety standards for these installations.
- There was an hour-long discussion of the similarities and differences between the two standards, and ultimately the committee agreed to review 2021 IFC Ch 1207 as homework for the next meeting.
- Of note, a threshold between Tier 1 and Tier 2 BESS in many example ordinances is aggregate capacity of less than or equal to 600kWh and greater than 600kWh, respectively. Overall capacity for common battery chemistries (Li-ion, Flow, Sodium, etc.) is > 600 kWh.

# BESS Committee

- The BESS committee made several requests for additional research/information:
  1. Hazards Analysis documents from other BESS projects – preferably showing how the analysis developed over time as project details were fleshed out.
  2. Calculations and/or documents about potential for explosions/blast radius.
  3. BESS ordinance language from other jurisdictions and/or model ordinance language showing examples of possible setbacks and rationale for those setbacks.



# BESS Committee

- The BESS committee made several requests for additional research/information:
  4. Information about gas detection/monitoring system – Junior indicated he would reach out to a contact for this information.
  5. Runoff management information – in the event of a fire/off-gassing, how would hazardous materials be managed and prevented from entering surface and/or ground water.



# BESS Committee

- The BESS Committee discussed desired outcomes of the next meeting:
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 22
- The group agreed they want to work towards developing their first Statement related to setbacks. Staff and group members discussed how the appropriate way to phrase a statement, and that statements can evolve, they are not final until the committee's work is complete.
- The group agreed they would like to invite a representative from Linn County EMA to the next meeting, if they are available, to provide an expert perspective on emergency management considerations related to BESS.
- The group will consider if other experts should be contacted.
- Staff advised that some consulting assistance is available with very specific research requests. Of the research topics discussed, staff indicated they may try to ask for help with the hazards analysis documents and explosion/blast radius information.
- Staff will share other documents as requested in the Google drive folder.

# Meeting Dates

- Meeting #1 – January 26 (completed)
- Meeting #2 – February 8 (completed)
- Meeting #3 – February 22
- Meeting #4 – March 1
- Other Meeting Dates TBD

Note: Staff will be updating the Board of Supervisors on committee progress at the February 21<sup>st</sup> Department Head Update meeting. All committee members are invited to attend.