

LINN COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Jean Oxley Public Service Center

Informal Board Room

March 1, 2023

2pm to 4 pm

Battery Energy Storage Systems Meeting #3
Meeting Summary



Battery Energy Storage System Discussion

- The BESS committee approved the summary from their March 1, 2023 meeting, with one change noted by Sara Alden to mention overall battery capacity of >600kWh.

Meeting Attendees:

BESS Committee Members

- Sara Alden
- Curt Eilers
- Bruce Lindholm
- Junior Luensman
- Steve Myres

Planning and Development Staff

- Stephanie Lientz
- Brad Wylam

Linn County Emergency Management

- BJ Dvorak
- Tom Ulrich

Priorities:

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

BESS Emergency Response Discussion

The first half of the meeting was spent discussing issues with Emergency Management Agency representatives BJ Dvorak and Tom Ulrich. Primarily issues discussed were related to BESS committee safety priorities off-gassing/gas detection, and the emergency response planning for hazards like fire and subsequent gas dispersion.

General emergency response guidelines for BESS incidents:

- Fire department and Haz Mat are notified and dispatched, set up incident command at safe distance upwind, Linn County Public Health will likely be sent to monitor air quality
- In case of fire: let it burn out, as water and foam are not effective in battery fire suppression); another possible option would be to bury the affected unit(s)
- In case of gas plume : Nearby residents will most often be advised to shelter in place and shut off forced air in home; they will need to be alerted to any incident (alarm/siren/call/door-to-door are possible methods)
- Internal pre-planning documents are created by response agencies with incident plans

**EMA was asked if they received an Emergency Response Plan for the Alliant Deer Run Pilot BESS site in Cedar Rapids, and they indicated that they did not.

BESS Emergency Response Discussion

Suggested items that BESS Emergency Response Plan should address:

- Response for different types of hazards
- Proposed method of alerting nearby residents an incident is occurring and requires action on their part – types of alerts discussed: phone, siren
- Clean-up/remediation plan after an incident has occurred, specific to the type of event

Staff indicated that examples of Emergency Response Plans have been shared to the committee folder in Google drive



BESS Screening Example

EMA indicated they would check with a chemist contact about the toxicity of gas released during a battery fire.

BESS Committee

The BESS Committee discussed desired outcomes of the next meeting on March 8:

- The group agreed they want to work towards developing their Statement for all priorities. A draft set of topics for statements was saved to the Google drive for revision outside of meetings. Again, it was noted that statements can evolve, they are not final until the committee's work is complete.
- Staff was directed to locate the Johnson County BESS ordinance and related ordinance from New York upon which Johnson County based much of their work.
- Staff indicated they would continue looking for relevant documents, and would share an example of BESS facility screening, as well (see picture on previous page).
- Staff will share documents as requested in the Google drive folder.
- Staff also indicated they would share the other subcommittee Google drive folders for viewing only by this group.
- Another meeting was scheduled for March 13, 2023.

Meeting Dates

- Meeting #1 – January 26 (completed)
- Meeting #2 – February 8 (completed)
- Meeting #3 – February 22 (canceled due to weather)
- Meeting #3 rescheduled – March 1 (completed)
- Meeting #4 – March 8
- Meeting #5 – March 13
- Other Meeting Dates TBD

Note: The February 21 Department Head Meeting noted in the February 8 Meeting Summary was canceled. Staff will be updating the Board of Supervisors on committee progress at a Department Head Update meeting in March. **Staff will notify committee members of the meeting date.** These meetings are held on Tuesday mornings in the Formal Board Room at the Public Service Center. All committee members are invited to attend.