



WE, the undersigned residents of Massachusetts, urge you as Governor to order a freeze on the further review, permitting and installation of industrial-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems, including one proposed for a 51-acre forested site in Wendell, pending full investigation of the impacts of such projects on public health, safety and welfare.

An independent and thorough investigation of the causes and prevention of battery fires must take place before any of these energy storage systems are installed in Massachusetts.

email/phone

Wrong project, wrong place -- some background:

Save forests, for climate health

- The proposed 105-megawatt lithium ion battery storage project site is 51 acres of forest and wetlands in the rural town of Wendell, adjacent to one of the most pristine Core Habitat areas in the state, an 'exemplary natural community.'
- Trees absorb CO₂, regulate the water cycle and protect climate and wildlife habitat. A planned 11.1 acres of forest would be clearcut. With an 8-foot high security fence, a 25-foot high sound wall, and constant air conditioning and light for the 780 energy storage batteries, the facility's noise and light pollution would have harmful effects on local wildlife and the surrounding community.

Danger -- fire!

- There have been multiple serious battery storage fires in California, Arizona, and New York. Lithium fires cannot be put out but must burn, causing serious pollution and requiring area resident evacuation.

Protect local democracy

- In December 2022, Wendell's Conservation Commission denied the project a permit due to detrimental effects of noise on wildlife.
- Disregarding local authority, in January 2023, New Leaf Energy, Inc. applied to the Mass. Dept. of Public Utilities for exemption from all Wendell zoning bylaws.

Support alternatives

- Energy conservation should be a state priority, with battery storage located on developed sites, not forests, wetlands or farmland — and only when fire threats to the public have been minimized, and emergency safety protocols finalized.
- *Please mail to: No Assault & Batteries, PO Box 265, Wendell, MA 01379 by **Jan. 31, 2024.***
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