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ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE LETTER TO THE TEAM THAT IS DEVELOPING THE NEW BESS SITING ORDINANCE FOR LA COUNTY

FROM: Ruth Brock <actontakesaction@att.net>
TO: Katherine Lample <klample@planning.lacounty.gov>,
Mark Herwick <mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov>
CC: Barger, Kathryn <Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov>
Congressman Mike Garcia <ca27mgima@mail.house.gov>,
Anthony Marrone <Anthony.Marrone@fire.lacounty.gov>
Albert Yanagisawa <albert.yanagisawa@fire.lacounty.gov>
Amy Bodek <abodek@planning.lacounty.gov>

SUBJECT: Understanding the Volatility and Danger of Lithium-ion Batteries

Hello Katie and Mark,

As you are the team working hard to put together the BESS siting ordinance, I believe that understanding the volatility and danger of lithium-ion batteries — the technology that seems to be the preferred choice of developers — is beyond important.

I would like to bring your attention to an article about a fire reported from today, Monday 6/24, at a lithium-ion battery manufacturing facility in Hwaseong, South Korea where 22 factory workers have sadly lost their lives. Some of the elements of this tragedy lay within the fact that many were day-laborers with limited knowledge of the facility layout and were unable to escape in time to avoid the deadly toxic gases produced by the lithium-ion batteries while they overheated, burned and exploded.

The bottom line is that these lithium-ion batteries are volatile, dangerous and deadly.

Bear in mind this story reports that the facility was believed to have had approximately 35,000 lithium-ion batteries inside. The 400 MW Hecate Humidor proposed in Acton will utilize at least 130,000.

No BESS facility should ever be put through a simple ministerial approval process, one “similar to that of an approval for a fence”— as stated by Mr. DeGrazia at the December 19th 2023 NOE appeal hearing for Humidor. A burning fence would likely not pose the same risks as that of a burning BESS.

Food for thought...

The County could consider a ban on the use of lithium-ion battery technology in certain locations where residents or workplace employees are endangered. There are several other performance comparable technologies that are not fire-prone or toxic!

Please encourage our County officials to put our people before the developer's profits.

This ban of lithium-ion technology is being implemented in the siting ordinance for Pittsfield, MA.

Please see page 15, under Section D, subsection 2, (4)

https://cms2.revize.com/revize/pittsfieldma/city_hall/community_development/planning_and_development/uploads/BESS%20FINAL%20Siting%20and%20Design%20Guidelines_20240206.pdf

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Please consider this as you develop your siting guidelines.

The links to the South Korea Battery Manufacturing Facility story are below.

Thank you,

Ruthie Brock

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/death-toll-in-south-korea-battery-plant-fire-rises-to-22/ar-BB1oNtna>

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/at-least-16-dead-in-a-fire-at-a-lithium-battery-factory-in-south-korea/ar-BB1oLTLt>

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/06/24/asia/south-korea-fire-lithium-battery-deaths-aricell-intl-hnk/index.html>

ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO THE TEAM THAT IS DEVELOPING THE NEW BESS SITING ORDINANCE FOR LA COUNTY

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TO: Katherine Lample <klample@planning.lacounty.gov>,
Mark Herwick <mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov>
CC: Barger, Kathryn <Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov>
Amy Bodek <abodek@planning.lacounty.gov>
Charles Bostwick <cbostwick@bos.lacounty.gov>
Acton Town Council <atc@actontowncouncil.org>

SUBJECT: Security Video Showing how the Fire Started in the South Korea Battery Plant, Death Toll now at 23

Katie and Mark,

This is new security video showing how the fire started in the South Korea battery plant, death toll now at 23.

I found out from a SME, from a Facebook group I belong to that is dedicated to lithium-ion battery fires, that these were incorrectly reported as lithium-ion batteries by the media. They are actually non-rechargeable lithium batteries called LiSOC12, but the reactive lithium and the fire, explosions and off-gassing is exactly like lithium-ion.

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Also most who perished were said to have died from the toxic gases within a few breaths, then likely were consumed by the intense fire.

Supposedly the factory was in compliance with all safety guidelines.

There are so many reasons why these lithium based batteries can fail. As you see in the video, nobody was handling the batteries when they began to burn. The speed at which these go from "smoke" showing" to "raging inferno" is unbelievable.

I hope you and Mark are beginning to understand our concerns with this lithium-based battery technology. All lithium-based batteries are toxic and fire prone, some like LiPO4 just have a slightly higher temp at which they react, but once they do begin to overheat and burn and go into thermal runaway, they release a higher percentage of hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen cyanide gases under greater pressure than lithium-ion NMC.

These batteries are ALL deadly and all are capable of catastrophic fires.

Ruthie

Security Video Showing how the Fire Started in the South Korea Battery Plant, Death Toll now at 23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eY7eUbFY2X0>