

August 27, 2024

Page 01

ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S CORRESPONDENCE LETTER TO HECATE GRID REQUIRING ANSWERS TO QUESTION CONCERNING WHAT BATTERY TECHNOLOGIES WILL THE HUMIDOR BESS FACILITY BE UTILIZING

---

Hello Hecate,

Your website encourages questions on your project and I do have several questions about the Humidor BESS.

Firstly, which battery technology will the Humidor BESS be utilizing?

Respectfully... "Nationally tested," "State of the Art" and "Cutting Edge" are non-answers so I'm hoping we can please avoid them?

The Hecate website states that they utilize Lithium-ion battery technology.  
<https://hecategrid.com/energy-storage/>

Can you confirm that?

But if your battery choice has by chance morphed to Lithium-Iron-Phosphate, "LiFePO4" are no more safe—in fact they may react at an 80 degrees Celsius higher temperature but once they do react, they burn with more combustion and with more toxic hydrogen gases (50% vs 30% from Li-io). They still experience thermal runaway and are still very difficult if not impossible to extinguish, so unfortunately we don't view LiFePO4 as a more safe option to Lithium-ion.

You have not confirmed your choice of battery technology since receiving pushback from our community of Acton but yet have stated several times in the press that there is "much misinformation out there" about your project.

So here's your chance to correct the "misinformation."

A lack of response to this email may only translate to furthering the appearance of your lack of transparency from the very start with our community. Battery technology is not a "trade secret" that you must protect as these technologies are openly reported when projects are announced with fanfare to the energy industry. But when you are receiving substantial community pushback due to safety concerns I'm sure this may motivate your actions.

I'm fairly certain your project utilizes one of the two lithium-based battery technologies I have mentioned otherwise you would be quick to correct our mis-statements if you were utilizing a battery that is without fire and toxicity risks, yes?

UL 9540 certification does not insure there will not be a failure. In fact the UL9540A test standard allows for failure, and even though certification of batteries requires them not to burn beyond the unit they are contained within, this does nothing to mitigate the highly toxic offgassing. And as proven in the Victoria Big Battery failure incident, they can and will spread to neighboring container units with higher winds than those speeds tested under in the UL9540A standards. This is a huge concern for Acton due to your poorly chosen location being in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This

ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S CORRESPONDENCE LETTER TO HECATE GRID REQUIRING ANSWERS TO QUESTION CONCERNING WHAT BATTERY TECHNOLOGIES WILL THE HUMIDOR BESS FACILITY BE UTILIZING

---

designation of risk is mostly due to this area being a narrow corridor where there is always wind acceleration during even mild wind events in our general area. Even if the fire were kept contained to the facility, the toxic hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide gases are not. So basically UL9540 does more to mitigate your BESS project losses than to mitigate the risks to our residents.

So please tell me about your battery technology.

How will you mitigate risk to our community from the off-gassing during a failure event?

Designing your project to the NFPA 855 standards and NFPA 1 fire codes does not guarantee there will be no failure events and merely means you have met whatever requirements are in place, none of which can or will prevent fire events. And in my world, when it comes to our residents' safety, there is no such thing as "failing safe."

And perhaps could you also explain how your project will be designed to contain any contaminated water runoff when LACOFD is using great amounts of water to protect adjacent exposures during the many days to weeks a battery fire may burn? The site plan of the Humidor BESS project provided to the Acton Town Council and our community has no such provisions in its approved design.

I'm all ears.

Thank you,

Ruthie Brock  
Acton Takes Action Community Task Force