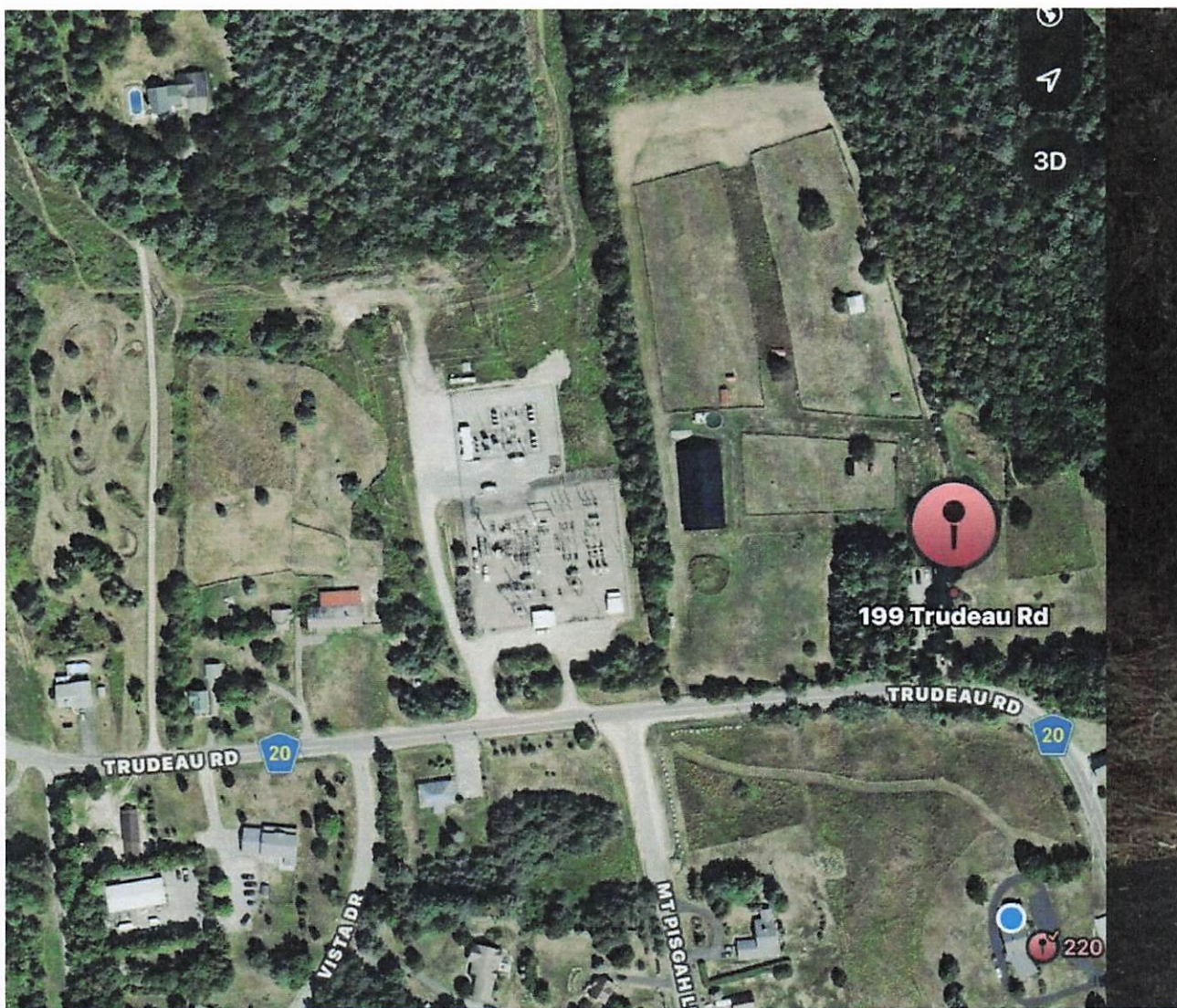


Satellite Map – Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Project Location: 199 Trudeau Road, Town of St. Armand, New York



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SUMMARY

Proposed Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Proposed Project Location: 199 Trudeau Road – Saranac Lake, Town of St. Armand, New York

Project Site: 199 Trudeau Road (near the Trudeau Road residential area)

QUICK FACTS	
Purpose of Petition	Request that the Town of St. Armand deny approval of the proposed BESS project at 199 Trudeau Road.
Project Type	Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System
Location	199 Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake
Main Concerns	Public safety, environmental impacts, compatibility with nearby homes

What is a Battery Energy Storage System?

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) stores electricity in large lithium-ion battery units and releases that electricity back to the electrical grid when needed.

- Large battery container units
- Electrical conversion and control equipment
- Cooling and ventilation systems
- Safety and fire protection equipment
- Security fencing and controlled access areas

Key Community Considerations

Public Safety

Fire safety risks associated with lithium-ion battery systems, along with ongoing noise impacts generated by cooling equipment and electrical infrastructure.

- Safety considerations associated with large lithium-ion battery storage systems
- Emergency response capability in a rural community primarily served by volunteer fire departments

Environmental Considerations

- Potential environmental concerns if a battery malfunction, fire, or equipment failure were to occur
- Possible impacts to surrounding forests, wetlands, and Adirondack environmental resources
- Long-term environmental monitoring and site management responsibilities

Community and Land Use

Potential negative impacts to nearby residential property values and the associated financial interests of neighboring property owners.

- Compatibility of industrial-scale energy infrastructure with nearby homes and rural land use
- Potential impacts to the rural character of the surrounding community
- Long-term maintenance, site management, and decommissioning responsibilities

Purpose of the Petition

The petition requests that the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand deny approval of the proposed lithium-ion Battery Energy Storage System project at 199 Trudeau Road after evaluating impacts to public safety, environmental resources, and the rural character of the community.

Residents who share these concerns are encouraged to sign the petition requesting careful review of the safety, environmental, and community impacts of this proposal.

Questions about battery systems in the Capital Region? Here are some answers

- By Todd R. McAdam
- Mar 15, 2026

(North Hampton Supervisor, Jim Groff)

I recently read Carson Power's interview in The Daily Gazette, where senior project developer Sean Frusco answered several questions about Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and their proposed projects.

After reviewing it, I felt it was important to take a closer look at the questions that were asked and the answers that were given. In the interest of providing a balanced discussion, I've gone through those same questions and provided additional context, clarification, and information that residents should also be aware of.

My goal is to make sure the community has the full picture when discussing a project that will impact our towns, our environment, and our safety.

Below are the same questions from the interview, along with my responses that help explain the broader context and some important details that were left out:

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🌐 Why do we need them?

To be quite honest the Town of Northampton, as well as the Adirondack Park as a whole, does not need battery energy storage systems (BESS). The town and surrounding area do not have issues with power fluctuations. Grid reliance, rolling blackouts and brownouts are not a concern in the Adirondack Park.

You might say, but we do have power outages! You are correct, however, the power outages in the Northampton and surrounding areas are typically due to storm damage and accidents. When there is damage to the grid a BESS will not be able to supply backup

power. In the rare event of an outage with no damage to the grid this BESS would provide up to 4 hours of power... FOUR HOURS! That's it.

BESS do not produce power, they only store it. The Northampton BESS will NOT be connected to solar or wind. It will be buying electric directly from the grid, storing it and selling it back at a higher price... yet again, it serves no purpose in Northampton. It is a private business profiting, but it is allowed to be classified as a "public utility" 🤔

🗣️ Where are they needed?

I wholeheartedly disagree with Sean, the Adirondacks are NOT where BESS are needed. It is clear he fundamentally misunderstands the needs and wants of the communities within the Blue Line.

They are needed where they can be safely and responsibly placed where grid reliability is genuinely an issue. (Next question dives into that more)

🗣️ Where can they be placed?

In very carefully selected safe and responsible locations where the demand for them is relevant, such as, industrial zoned areas with the infrastructure to support them; most importantly:

🚫 away from neighborhoods (and densely populated areas)

🌲 away from environmentally sensitive areas

🏞️ away from protected parks

It is downright irrepressible and unsafe to put them in the Adirondack Park, an environmentally sensitive, tourism-based regions with limited local resources and manpower deprived volunteer emergency services. The Adirondack Park is a 6 million acre rare "unicorn", it's the largest publicly protected park in the contiguous United States, a landscape woven with Forever Wild public lands and maintaining good stewardship of private property... BESS projects are not good stewardship!

As with the Northampton BESS, they certainly do not belong on a site surrounded by wetlands and forest, less than a mile from the largest reservoir in the Adirondack Park, Great Sacandaga Lake!

🗣️ Why are they always catching fire?

Sean's claim that the likelihood of a battery system fire has dropped 98% is VERY misleading. The data used to generate that percentage includes behind-the-meter small commercial and industrial battery systems, not just utility-scale systems. In New York State there has been 5 utility-scale BESS fires since 2023... FIVE in THREE years!!

When BESS fires do occur, they are catastrophic. The Warwick, NY, BESS fire location is now condemned. Once thermal runaway begins these fires cannot be put out and will burn

for days. Consequences include toxic gas release, groundwater/wetlands contamination, first responder safety, environmental damage, wildfire risk, and threat of re-ignition days later. Not to mention these fires use 40,000+ gallons of water to control, keep containers cool and surrounding area wet to prevent spread. (water is not used to put these fires out, they are left to burn out on their own)

🕒 How can fires be prevented?

The claim that BESS fires can be prevented with remote monitoring is false. Most BESS fires were monitored remotely. Modern lithium-ion battery systems do use sensors, temperature monitoring, and automated shutdown systems. However, thermal runaway events can still occur even in systems with these protections. Once a lithium-ion cell enters thermal runaway, the reaction becomes self-sustaining, meaning shutting down the electrical system does not stop the chemical reaction already underway inside the battery cells. While remote monitoring does offer early detection, it does not guarantee preventing a fire.

Carson Power claims to be using the safest BESS, the Tesla Megapack, while it may be true that they are the safest that doesn't say much when just 5 months ago TWO Tesla Megapack containers caught fire in Nevada.

It should also be mentioned that the Carson Power emergency response person that would be dispatched to assist the local fire department could be up to 4 hours away per NY fire code... Four hours!!

🕒 If it does catch fire, how can it be fought?

I find it interesting that Sean mentions spacing is really important and the cabinets are isolated from each other and from burnables by typically 15 feet, because on the APA site plans for the Northampton BESS it shows the containers being only 8.5 feet apart and the fence comes within 7 feet.

The explanation comparing a BESS fire to an oven shorting out is not technically accurate and oversimplifies the risk.

A lithium-ion battery fire is not just an electrical fire. Once a battery cell enters thermal runaway, the reaction becomes a self-sustaining chemical process. Even if you shut off external power, the heat and chemical reactions inside the cells can continue to generate energy, spread to adjacent cells, and reignite hours or even days later.

Fire departments across the country have also reported that large battery fires can require tens of thousands of gallons of water, extended monitoring, and multi-day response operations due to the potential for re-ignition. The Northampton BESS site has NO access to public water and the local Great Sacandaga Lake volunteer fire department lacks the manpower and equipment to safely respond to a BESS fire.

🕒 What about fumes?

Toxic fumes is a leading question communities are asking.

Even the research cited acknowledges that emissions from lithium-ion battery fires are still poorly studied and that the vented gases can be complex and highly hazardous. Those gases can include hydrogen, carbon monoxide, methane, ethylene, ethane, carbon dioxide, and potentially hydrogen fluoride, which is a highly toxic and corrosive gas.

Comparing this to a typical structure fire is VERY misleading. While some gases overlap, lithium-ion battery failures can produce additional chemical compounds created by electrolyte breakdown and battery materials that are not present in most building fires.

More importantly, researchers emphasize that the exact composition and concentration of gases varies widely depending on battery chemistry, the state of charge, and how the failure occurs. That uncertainty is exactly why many fire safety researchers and emergency response agencies recommend larger safety setbacks, air monitoring, and evacuation planning when battery systems fail.

If the science itself says emissions are complex and not yet well understood, it's reasonable for communities to ask for careful siting, strong safety standards, and clear emergency planning before large battery storage systems are built near homes, lakes, and forests.

● Will Carson fight a ban?

The real issue: Communities have the legal authority to decide what types of industrial development are appropriate for their towns.

Across New York, several municipalities have enacted moratoriums or bans on BESS so they can study safety standards, zoning impacts, and emergency response needs before projects move forward. A temporary moratorium or even a permanent zoning restriction isn't hostility toward developers, it's simply a town exercising its right to protect public safety, land use, and environmental resources while evaluating complex infrastructure proposals.

When a company says it wants to "work with the community," that should mean respecting local decisions, not trying to pressure towns into approving projects before residents and officials fully understand the risks, costs, and long-term responsibilities.

If collaboration is truly the goal, the first step is respecting a community's right to slow down, ask questions, and set its own rules.

● Will Carson continue the Northampton development if the town enacts a moratorium?

A moratorium exists for a reason, to give a community time to pause, develop regulations, and make informed decisions BEFORE additional development moves forward.

Saying a company can simply "continue project development during a moratorium" raises an important concern. The purpose of a moratorium is to temporarily halt progress while the town evaluates zoning, safety standards, and emergency response planning. Continuing development activities during that time can undermine the intent of the pause that residents and local officials are trying to establish.

It's also important to remember that approval of one permit does not eliminate a town's responsibility to reassess regulations as new information emerges. Across New York, many municipalities have adopted moratoriums specifically because battery storage technology, fire safety standards, and emergency response guidance are still evolving.

If the goal is truly to "work with the town," then respecting the purpose of a moratorium, allowing the community time to evaluate risks, regulations, and long-term impacts should be part of that cooperation.

🌐 What's with the lease on the city of Johnstown property?

I'll admit I don't know much about the Johnstown project but calling a project "super-early stage" after a lease has already been signed raises reasonable questions.

Leasing land is typically one of the first concrete steps in project development, not just a casual exploration. Once a site is under lease, developers often begin preliminary engineering, interconnection inquiries, and permitting research. So while a project may still be uncertain, a signed lease usually signals serious interest in advancing a project at that location.

🌐 And what is going on in Essex County?

Like I've already stated, it is irresponsible and unsafe to put BESS inside the Adirondack Park, they don't belong anywhere inside the Blue Line. The Town of St. Armand (Saranac Lake) took the right step from the beginning by passing a resolution on a BESS moratorium. They will be holding a public hearing for the BESS moratorium on March 19th at 5:30 in Bloomingdale, NY.