Lake Colby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

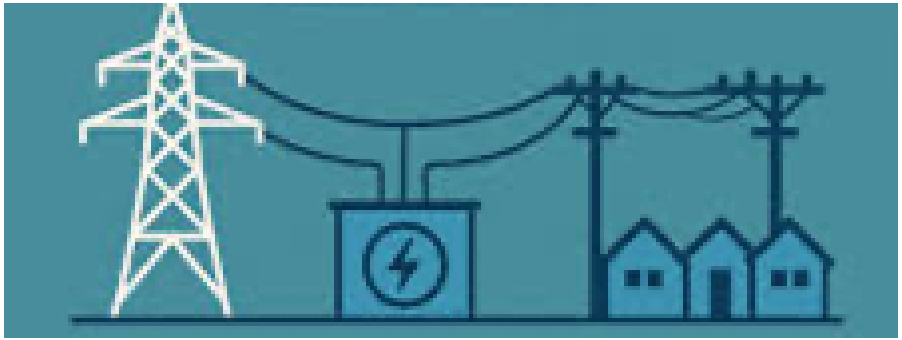
Town Board Meeting with Town of St. Armand

February 19, 2026

www.carson-power.com

Why Adirondack Park Agency?

The North Country has unique grid characteristics:



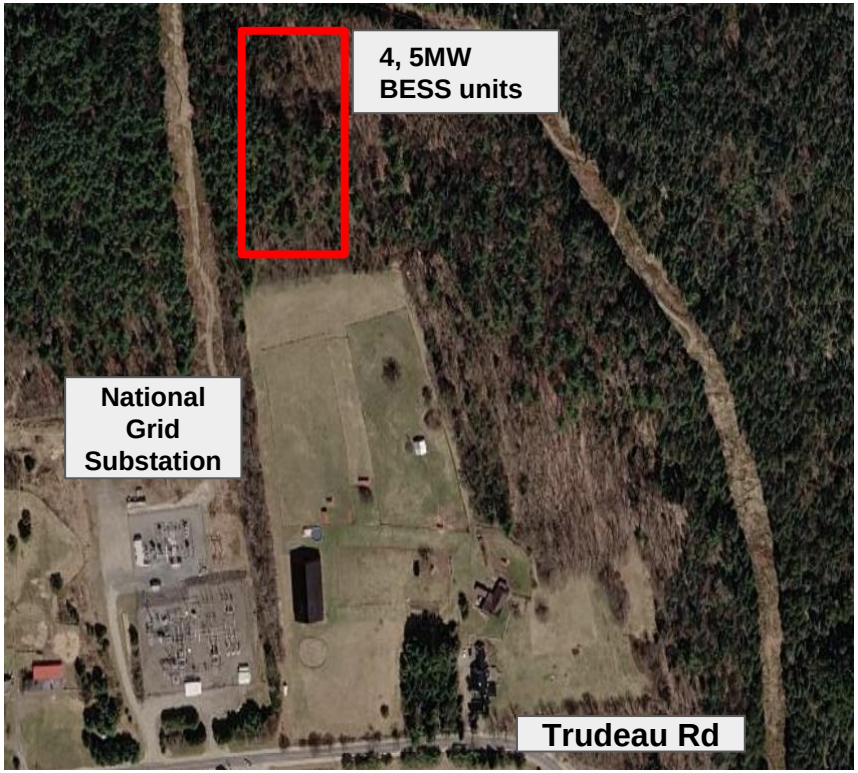
- **Long transmission lines**
- **Limited redundancy**
- **Higher winter reliability concerns**
- **Seasonal tourism load swings**

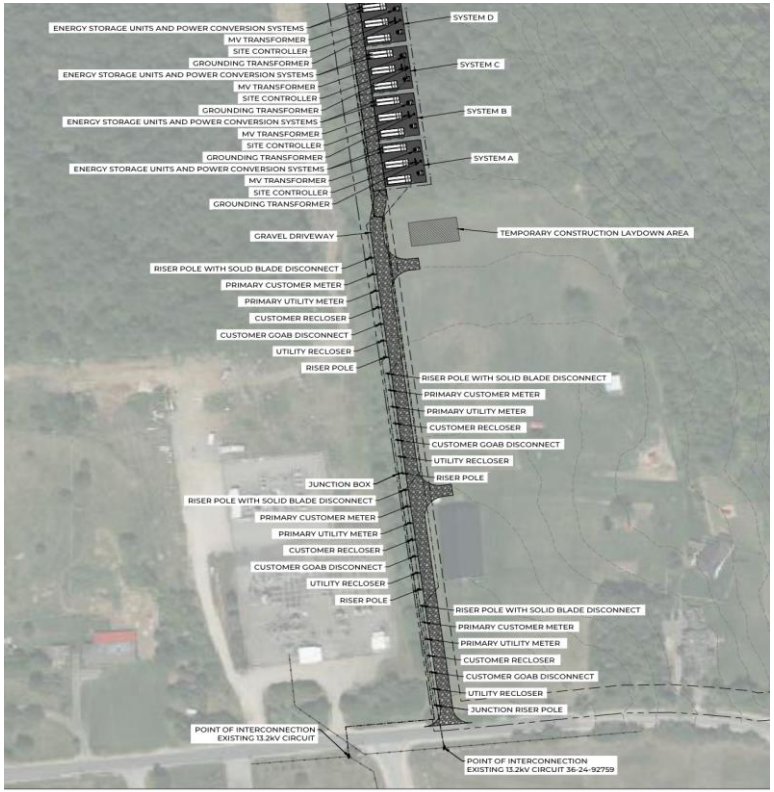
Bottom Line: Localized energy storage improves resilience in rural communities where outages can have greater impacts. This coupled with the PSC for opening the BESS market and CLCPA goals has created a demand for BESS in upstate NY.

Lake Colby BESS

Site Plan

199 Trudeau Road, Saint Armand, New York, 12983



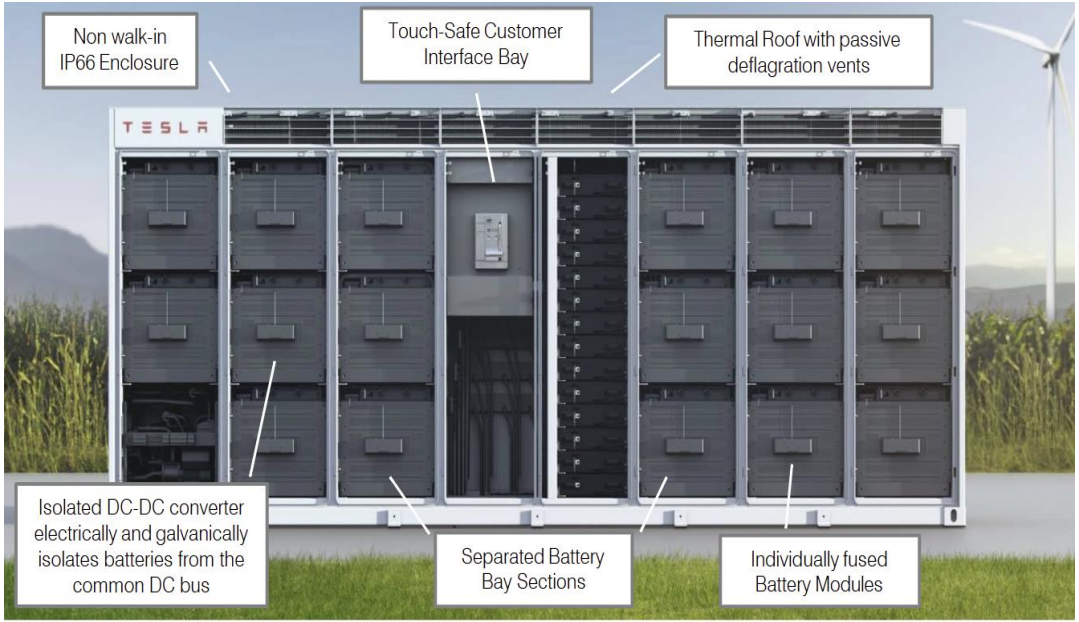


What does a BESS unit do?

The battery system:

- **Charges during low-demand periods**
- **Discharges during peak demand**
- **Supports voltage stability**
- **Reduces strain on transmission lines**
- **Helps prevent emergency peak events**

It operates automatically and is monitored 24/7.



Safety and Precautions

This project follows national safety and fire protection standards including:

- **UL 9540 system certification**
- **UL 9540A fire testing at full installation scale**
- **NFPA 855 fire code compliance**
- **New York State Fire Code**

Modern systems are compartmentalized and designed to prevent fire propagation between units.

Emergency preparedness includes:

- **Emergency Operations Plan provided to the Town**
- **Coordination and Training with St. Armand Fire Department**
- **Required separation distances and fire access lanes**
- **24/7 remote monitoring and automated alerts**
- **On-call operator contact at all times**
- **Annual walkthroughs and training opportunities for responders**
- **Routine Maintenance to ensure equipment safety**

Common Myths About BESS

MYTH: BESS easily catch fire
FACT: Fires are rare and declining due to improved design, UL 9540A testing, and modern safety standards.

MYTH: Battery fires release highly toxic pollution that contaminates air, soil, and water
FACT: Emissions are comparable to a building fire, with studies showing no lasting environmental contamination.

MYTH: A battery fire would require mass evacuation
FACT: Response is similar to a structure fire; guidance is typically avoid smoke or shelter in place.

MYTH: BESS should not be located near homes or schools
FACT: Code-compliant systems are safe in community settings and support local grid reliability and cost savings.

MYTH: Firefighters are not trained for battery incidents
FACT: Projects include emergency response plans, annual training, and haz-mat support with defined response times.

MYTH: Battery storage shouldn't be built because of mineral mining
FACT: Critical minerals are used across many technologies, and supply chains are improving with domestic production and traceability.

MYTH: BESS is only needed in dense cities
FACT: Storage is needed everywhere for resilience, peak reduction, and renewable integration. Energy storage is deployed across New York and the United States.

***Source**: https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Siting-Resources/Battery-Energy-Storage-Guidebook*

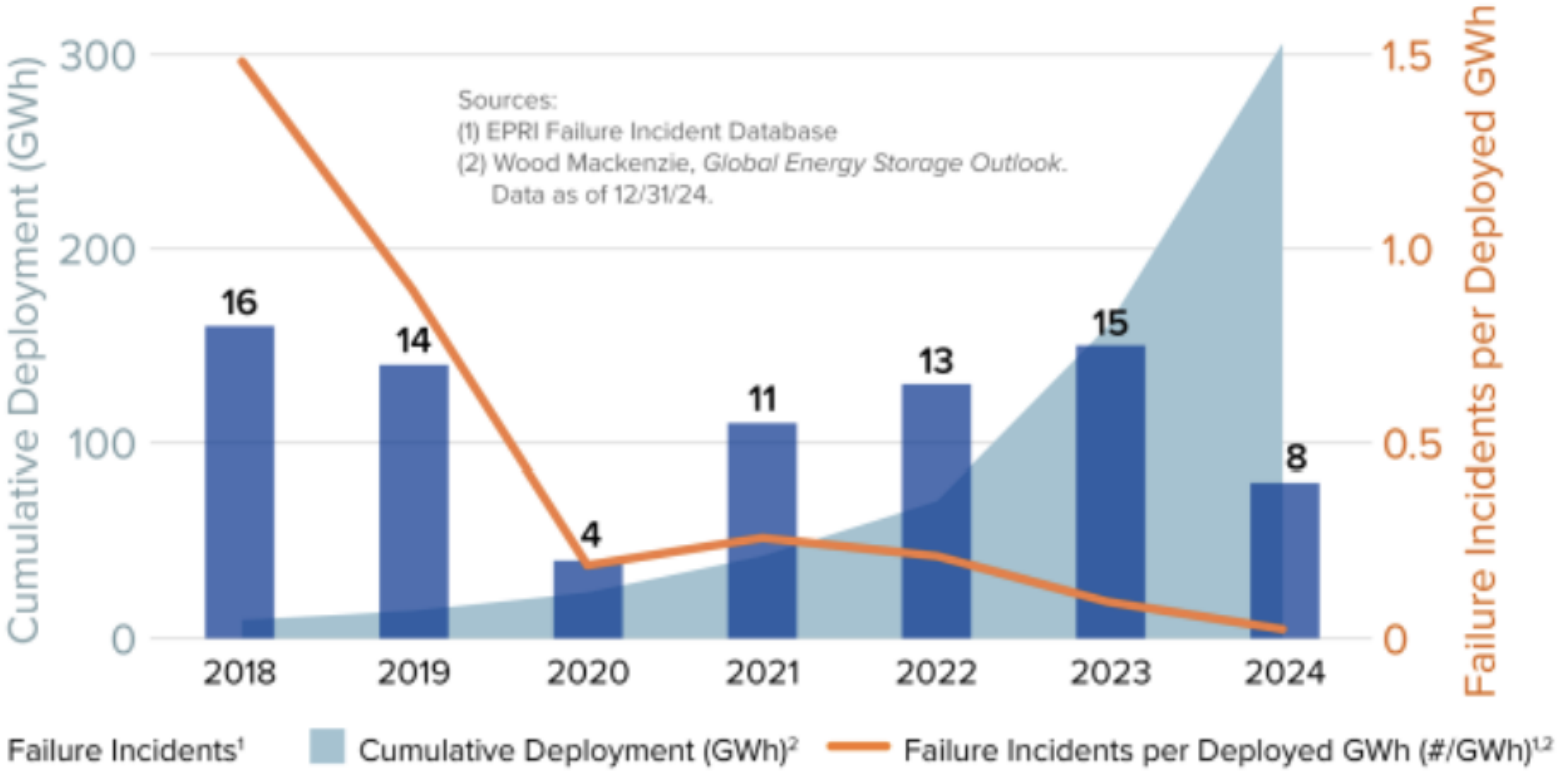


Figure 1. Global grid-scale storage deployment and failure statistics. Source: Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), 2024.