April 16, 2026

Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project on Trudeau Rd, Town of St. Armand, NY
Questions for Carson Power

Adirondack residents ask Carson Power to address our questions at the April 29, 2026 information session on the proposed BESS project on Trudeau Road in the town of St. Armand. We urge Carson Power to provide written responses with supporting citations.

We recognize the value of energy storage systems in New York State (NYS) in serving communities' growing energy needs by building resilience of our electrical system, increasing grid reliability, integrating renewable energy, and protecting Adirondack winters.

We are seeking <u>local, site-specific answers to "WHY HERE,</u>" in an Adirondack region served by hydroelectric and nuclear power. It would be helpful for Carson Power to explain its BESS siting process before addressing specific Risks and Benefits of the proposed project to local communities. Key topics are:

1) What are the risks to health, safety, property, and the environment?
    - Address risks to adjacent neighbors, the Trudeau Rd area, and communities served by the region's volunteer fire departments, as well as risk mitigation.
2) How will the project benefit residents of St. Armand and/or neighboring Adirondack communities?
    - Describe effects on local cost of electricity, power reliability, property or school tax savings, and energy for peak electricity demand (e.g., hydroelectric plants serving the Adirondacks).
    - How would this BESS contribute to future energy resilience and bolster aging grid infrastructure as energy needs increase?

SITING

Explain how Carson Power selects sites in New York State and in the Adirondacks in particular.

- Substation power and transmission threshold – what level of power transmission is needed to support battery chargers and converters?
- Proximity to high-power transmission lines
- BESS size/capacity relative to substation size
- Standards for containment area – lot size, distance to trees, land surface conditions, etc.
- Zoning setbacks
- Other factors – e.g., community solar arrays

Specific questions on project risks and benefits are listed below. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison King
Richard Jarvis
Brian Killkelley
Todd Miller
Anne Stowers
George Stowers

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND RISKS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

POTENTIAL RISKS & RISK MITIGATION

What are the risks to health, safety, property, and the environment?
Address risks to adjacent neighbors, the Trudeau Rd area, and communities served by the region's volunteer fire departments, as well as risk mitigation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT - GENERAL

- Expected life of project
  - Likelihood of BESS replacement and continuation
- Decommissioning plan and timeline for site restoration
  - Decommissioning Fund: amount, form (e.g., bond, escrow), duration, where held, by whom?
- Impact of BESS projects on property values - provide historic data.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT – SAFETY

- Describe BESS fires and failures over the past 5 years: age of units, cause of fire, damage, containment.[1]
  - Address misinformation.
  - Provide data showing whether BESS fires will spread beyond the facility site.
  - Provide data on air and water monitoring at BESS sites, including impact of BESS incidents.
- Review new and preexisting requirements of the 2025 NYS Fire Code (effective 12/29/2025) and any specific design measures to prevent potential spread of fire.
  - Describe planned setbacks at the proposed site such as nearest road (~1000 feet), residences (~638 and ~738 feet), and other buildings. How do setbacks at the Trudeau site compare to requirements of the 2025 NYS Fire Code?
  - Proposed site is wooded. Describe plans for tree clearing and any regulatory approvals needed.
  - What on-site facility monitoring and alarm systems are proposed?
  - Explain process for obtaining independent expert review of the proposed BESS at no cost to town.
- Training and funding of local firefighters and fire equipment
  - Explain how BESS design, training, monitoring, and inspection will prevent, as well as contain, fires.
  - Will Carson Power install alarms at local fire station(s)?
  - Will Carson Power or designated entity (e.g., BESS owner, National Grid) cover full cost of training, equipment and service upgrades?
  - Will independent publicly-available inspections and audits be conducted? If so, at what frequency (e.g., annual)?
  - Address issue of firefighters not being available for other local fires and up to a 4-hr delay before external personnel arrives.
  - What is the duration of site monitoring in the event of fire?
- Volume and source(s) of water needed.
  - Will on-site water storage (e.g., holding tanks) be installed for emergency needs?

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT – LIGHT

- Provide details on lighting and mitigation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT – NOISE

- Specify noise impact during construction and operation -- equipment, timing, monitoring and mitigation. Note: Local resident expressed concern that fans from National Grid substation are loud.

[1] See Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), an independent, non-profit organization that conducts research and development related to the generation, delivery, and use of electricity to ensure the public has clean, safe, reliable, affordable, and equitable access to electricity.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT – AIR, SOIL & WATER

- Discuss any improvements in BESS equipment or safety standards since June 2023 Warwick BESS fire that necessitated closure of a school building 900 feet from the BESS unit and deactivation of school rooftop air handling units.[2]
- Describe testing, standards and cleanup mitigation for air, water and soil contamination.
- How will protections be customized to soil, hydrology, and geology of St. Armand site?
- Explain size and capacity of containment pan under BESS units relative to volume of BESS contents.
  - Provide data to support estimated volume in event of leak or fire incident.
- Might water used in firefighting be contaminated? Provide supporting data from BESS leakage incidents.
- Describe site drainage plans including potential for runoff from the hillside BESS site to reach ground-water or to reach surface water downgradient of the site, such as the Saranac River and farmland.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- How will the project benefit residents of St. Armand and/or neighboring Adirondack communities? Describe effects on local cost of electricity, power reliability, property or school tax savings, and energy for peak electricity demand (e.g., hydroelectric plants serving the Adirondacks).
- How would this BESS contribute to future energy resilience and bolster aging grid infrastructure as energy needs increase?

LOCAL ECONOMICS

- PILOT
  - Provide copy of draft PILOT agreement.
  - Who (what entity) would receive PILOT? How long?
    Note: 2026 budget for the Town of St. Armand's is $1.9 million.
  - How much might PILOT reduce local taxes (e.g., $/household or resident)?
  - Compare with tax revenue if no PILOT
- Will Carson Power or future BESS owner establish an escrow account to cover repairs and environmental remediation if a significant event occurs?
- Estimate impact on local energy cost per kWh, if any.

ENERGY STORAGE AND USE

- Explain current local energy generation and use. What problem(s) would a BESS here solve?
  - Is 100% of available energy generated by Saranac Lake Community Solar delivered to the grid year-round, or is it curtailed at times due to transmission bottlenecks?
- Show proposed map or diagram of (a) energy production and flow into BESS, including from community solar, and (b) energy transmission out of BESS to end users or grid. Will BESS service the local area?
  - BESS energy storage. Maximum capacity, likely range or average, duration of energy storage?
  - BESS energy deployment. When, how, where, and how much energy will be transmitted from BESS (kWh / # homes served)? Will BESS resolve any solar transmission constraints?
- Grid and peaker plants
  - Do local Adirondack communities use energy from peaker plants? If so, which plant(s)?
  - Will St. Armand BESS reduce cost of peaker plant use in the Adirondacks and/or fossil fuel-powered peaker plants elsewhere in NYS? If so, explain how.
  - Will the project improve local or regional Adirondack grid reliability? What percentage of local power outages are caused by grid issues (e.g., *not* falling trees)?
  - Will the project protect against increasing electricity cost as demand rises, including demands of large load projects outside the Adirondacks that compete for energy in the North Country (e.g., ~600 MW Massena/St. Lawrence projects in NYISO interconnection queue)?

[2] NYS Interagency Fire Safety Working Group Air, Soil, and Water Data Findings, December 2023.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

INTERESTED PARTIES

Clarify the governmental jurisdiction (e.g., Adirondack Park Agency (APA), NYS DEC, NYSERDA, NYS Public Service Commission, NYS Independent System Operator, NYS Public Service Commission) and commercial interests in the project (e.g., National Grid). Provide copies of any project approvals.

- Project Sponsor or Applicant
- Project Developer
- Property Owner
- Project Owner - Does Carson Power plan to sell the BESS? Describe relevant experience.
- Project Operator

- Town: What are the roles and time requirements for town board, planning board, code officer, etc.?
  - Has Carson Power developed BESS projects in municipalities without zoning?
- APA: Has Carson Power applied to the APA for a jurisdictional determination?
  - Specify any site conditions at the St Armand site that differ significantly from APA-approved BESS projects.