

*\*On 2/20/2024 after receiving and compiling numerous emails from concerned citizens, a rough summary of the primary questions was forwarded to Carolyn O'Brien at Black Mountain Energy. She replied the following day with responses shown in red.*

**Carolyn,**  
**below are some excerpts from emails I've received from concerned neighbors. They are fairly representative of the types of questions which will need to be addressed.**

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Following are questions that many in my neighborhood have regarding the above named facility.

1. What provisions have been made for cleanup such as battery leakage, soil contamination of any kind, removal of batteries at the end of their usefulness, etc. should the company desist to do business such as decreased revenue, bankruptcy, abandonment of the property, etc. Will the taxpayers be left with this responsibility or will the company set up a special fund overseen by the county for this and should they cease doing business any funds remaining after clean up could be returned to the business. *County staff is recommending that as part of the decommissioning plan, the owner or operator of a Battery Energy Storage System shall provide the County with an irrevocable standby letter of credit or other form of security reasonably acceptable to the County Counselor, which shall be in an amount sufficient to ensure the good faith performance of the terms and conditions of the permit issued pursuant hereto and to provide for the removal and restorations of the site subsequent to removal. The amount of the letter of credit or other security shall be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of removal of the Battery Energy Storage System and restoration of the property, which shall be renewed every five (5) years. Delivery of the letter of credit or other security to the County shall occur prior to the commencement of operations.*
2. What is the probability of these batteries leaking and contaminating the ground soil or water since the City of Ozark uses well water as many of our residents in this area also have private wells. Since I have a private well as many of my neighbors do this is a major concern of ours. *In the last couple of years, the industry has also almost completely moved the LFP chemistry which does not contain as many concerning heavy metals that can be carried in the runoff as was the case with NMC (nickel in particular being a concern) and other similar lithium-ion chemistries. The primary components of LFP are lithium iron phosphate (a mineral), carbon (graphite), aluminium, copper, and steel, all commonly occurring elements/molecules with limited toxicity. These elements make up the bulk of the batteries by weight.*

*Additionally, the battery storage containers are built to be fully contained (they are not even supposed to be opened for maintenance), which reduces chances for leakage. There will also be a Hazard Mitigation Plan, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan,*

and Emergency Response Plan filed with the Fire Marshal. These plans are developed and filed closer to construction because they are designed specifically for each site.

3. How visible is the area going to be from the road and residents residing in the area. What measures are going to be taken to decrease the view of the area from the surrounding area. When batteries are replaced where will the used ones be stored or will they be stored at another site or recycled. **The project is set back almost 500' from the road and is also behind a fence. We would be happy to propose an opaque wooden fence and also provide landscaping screening if desired. When batteries are replaced (this does not happen very often – maybe once every 5 years), they will be removed from the site. The structures containing the batteries are roughly 8 – 10 feet in height which makes them less visible from outside the property.**
4. What impact will this have on traffic flow, noise, effect on wildlife. **There will be traffic associated with the construction of the facility, but once completed, there are only about 5 trips per month associated with maintenance activities. The noise associated with the batteries is generally not any louder than the adjacent substation. The project is also set back relatively far from the property lines, which will mitigate any noise propagation to neighbors.**

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This letter is in response to the request to have a letter submitted no later than the morning of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The following are our concerns:

- **Purpose of the facility** – backup system to current grid or other projects and expansions? **The purpose of the facility is to provide power to the grid when the electricity supply doesn't meet the necessary demand in the surrounding area. The battery storage facility is particularly necessary here because one of the only sizeable electricity generators, Table Rock dam (200MW), is primarily used for flood control rather than power generation. Excessive or low flows along the river system can cause significant coal plant outages, where the battery storage project comes into play as backup.**
- **Black Mountain Energy Storage** – parent company, financial viability, and safety record? **Black Mountain Energy Storage's parent company is rooted in traditional energy sources and has reputable experience in developing energy projects and infrastructure.**
- **Natural Bridge LLC** – involvement and interests? **BMES is under contract with Natural Bridge LLC (Landowner) for the development of the battery storage facility on the property.**
- **Financial costs and burden** to county residence? **None.**
- **Christian County involvement** – rezoning, future plans, responsibility to county residents? **Rezoning is not required for the development – only the utility designation. No future development is planned for the parcel at this time.**
- **Utilities involvement** – Liberty Electric and perceived services, grid sharing to other utilities? **Liberty Electric, the Transmission Service Provider (TSP), is performing transmission**

interconnection studies to evaluate the impact of the proposed battery storage facility. Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is the regulatory authority who approves these studies and manages the electric grid and wholesale power market for the central United States.

- **Construction considerations** – traffic control, duration of construction? All appropriate traffic control measures will be installed during construction by the contractor. The duration of construction is typically 8-12 months.
- **Employment** – initial and when functional? ~200 construction jobs. Once functional, the facility is unmanned aside from occasional maintenance visits.
- **Environmental Impact** – impact studies conducted and available? These have been completed and came back with no issues. There are a couple ponds and a stream located in the northeast corner of the site, but they are not being impacted by the development.
- **EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources** (water – ground water and water shed, air), **Missouri Department of Conservation** (wildlife)? A Threatened & Endangered Species study has been completed and no impacts have been identified that need to be permitted with the State.
- **Safety** – methods in the event of toxic exposure, air, ground and water. Firefighting capabilities? Hazard Mitigation Plan, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan, and Emergency Response Plan filed with the Fire Marshal will address any issues (see response to #2 above for more information)
- **Regulation Control and Enforcement** – (NFPA 855+) who has responsibility to control and enforce – county, state, federal? The Ozark Fire Department has the jurisdiction in this case.
- **History** – what has been the impact on communities with this company and this type of installation? BMES seeks to be a partner to the local communities we develop projects in and assist in the education and betterment of the surrounding area. The communities we have worked with are happy to have us and the benefits provided to the local community from these battery storage facilities. Please find below links related to PR surrounding BMES development on projects:

American Pharaoh: <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2023/10/04/eyes-on-milwaukee-states-biggest-battery-energy-storage-system-planned/>

Bufflehead: <https://wylie.com/2023/07/05/student-honored-battery-storage-facility-proposed/>