

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 06 December 2024 22:49:21

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0055

Site Address: LAND SOUTH OF CELLARHEAD SUBSTATION AND WEST OF Rownall Road Wetley
Rocks Staffordshire

Comments by: Elayna Brock

From:

455 ash bank road
455
Staffordshire
Stoke

ST9 0DT

Submission: Objection

Comments:

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Rownall Road.. While I support sustainable energy initiatives, I have serious concerns about the suitability of this location for such a facility.

1. Safety Risks

BESS facilities, particularly those utilizing lithium-ion batteries, are associated with significant fire and explosion risks. Instances such as the 2021 fire at the Victorian Big Battery in Australia demonstrate the potential dangers posed by such facilities. I am concerned about the ability of our local fire and emergency services to respond effectively to these unique hazards, as they often require specialized training and equipment.

2. Impact on Residential Areas

The proposed site is in close proximity to residential homes, including my own. A BESS installation in this area is inappropriate for several reasons:

ι Noise Pollution: Cooling systems and other operational activities are likely to produce constant low-frequency noise, disrupting the peaceful environment residents currently enjoy.

ι Visual Impact: The development would detract from the aesthetic appeal of the neighborhood and undermine its character.

ι Decreased Property Values: Industrial infrastructure like this is known to negatively affect property values in residential areas, harming local homeowners financially.

3. Environmental and Health Concerns

ι Air Quality: If the facility includes diesel generators or other backup power sources, emissions could

impact local air quality.

⌚ Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs): Although the risks from EMFs are debated, many residents have concerns about prolonged exposure near such systems, particularly for children and vulnerable populations.

⌚ Ecological Impact: If the proposed site is near water sources or green spaces, it could have a detrimental effect on local wildlife and ecosystems.

4. Lack of Community Consultation

The local community has not been adequately informed or consulted about this development. Decisions of this magnitude should involve meaningful engagement with residents, who will be most affected by the project's risks and impacts.

5. Alternative Locations

BESS facilities are better suited to industrial zones or sparsely populated areas, where risks to residents and the environment are minimized. I urge the planning authority to reconsider the suitability of this location and explore alternative sites.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that the planning application for this BESS development be denied. I am not opposed to renewable energy or energy storage technologies, but I believe this project poses unacceptable risks and impacts for a residential area like ours.

Thank you for considering my objection. I am happy to provide further information.

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