HOLTSVILLE
ENERGY STORAGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON GROUND-MOUNTED

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

General Q&A

What is a Battery Energy Storage System?

Battery energy storage systems, or BESS, store excess energy in times of low demand to be used later when it is needed, especially during peak demand hours and in times of emergency or grid outages. Storage helps to place energy on the grid when it is needed, instead of only when it is being produced when the wind is blowing, or sun is shining.

Why was this location chosen for this battery storage project?

We chose the site near the corner of William Floyd Parkway and Ramsey Road to maximize benefits to the grid and ratepayers. It is directly adjacent to transmission lines, which means it will service energy users efficiently, and electricity will flow easily in and out of the grid when required. Additionally, the parcel location is within an area that is zoned for industrial facilities.

Is energy storage clean?

Yes. Energy storage has no direct emissions. It requires no pipelines. Its systems typically require a minimal footprint. It recycles electricity. Energy storage will also help cut emissions as it takes more of the load off traditional fossil-fuel based generation. (ESA, 2019)

Where does the power go?

The project will connect to the regional power grid, LIPA. Energy on the grid flows to the closest source of demand, and local utilities draw energy from this regional grid to serve local businesses and homes. Alternatively, a utility or large energy user will contract to purchase the energy stored by the facility.

Is energy storage technology safe?

Yes. Energy storage has been a part of our electricity grid since the 1930s and has a safety record that is similar or better than other electricity generation, distribution, or management methods. Energy storage facilities have multiple layers of automatic protection systems and are typically enclosed by fencing, which prevents children and the general public from coming into contact with the installations, thus preventing unsafe conditions.

Environmental & Impacts

What can I expect to see during construction?

The process for constructing an energy storage facility is relatively simple. The construction process may require some heavy machinery or trucks. Typically, there are a few deliveries per day but not enough to provide a large increase in traffic. Workers arrive and leave at the beginning and end of each workday, and work occurs during typical business hours.

Technical Q&A

Will I see lower electric bills because of the facility?

Energy storage can lead to long-term cost savings in two primary ways: 1) By lowering the overall cost of providing electricity, and 2) By allowing customers to avoid paying premium pricing or “peak demand” rates. In addition, energy storage deployment can save consumers money through shorter outages. Fewer power outages after a storm or fewer equipment failures can help save not only money but lives as well. Overall, fewer outages lead to fewer economic losses.

What are the batteries made of and what is their typical lifespan?

Our facilities use high-quality lithium-ion batteries, similar to those found in cell phones, electric vehicles, and computers, but much larger. They typically last for 20 years before being responsibly recycled.