

Frequently Asked Questions

What is battery storage technology and how does it work?

The battery storage technology we are proposing to install is essentially a larger scale version of the batteries commonly used in computers and smart phones that can be found in most homes. When directly connected to the energy grid, the systems store energy that can be used later to meet customers' needs.

The battery storage system collects energy from the local electric grid during times of low or normal demand. The energy is then stored in a large battery on the distribution system, reducing the amount of energy we need to deliver from the regional transmission system during periods of high demand. The energy is then supplied from the storage system back onto the local distribution system during periods of high demand and delivered to local homes or businesses or used to support the overall reliability of the local energy grid.

Will this facility add noise to the community?

In general, battery systems have very low noise profiles, under everyday conditions, and we do not anticipate that noise from this battery will have any impact to the community. The energy storage system is designed to comply with N.J.A.C 7:29 Noise Control requirements set forth by the New Jersey Administrative Code as well as the Borough of Beach Haven Noise Ordinance.

Why did you choose the current location for the battery storage unit?

We chose the site of our decommissioned substation facility located on Second Street in Beach Haven due to its proximity to the local energy grid and power lines that play a key role in Long Beach Island's energy grid. By placing the facility at our existing site, we can also minimize significant new impacts to the community.

Is battery storage technology safe?

Yes. We design all our facilities with safety as our top priority. Battery storage technology is a safe and sustainable energy solution for our customers and communities. We have worked with independent, third-party fire safety experts for the technical specifications of the battery to ensure they meet the latest industry best practices.

Fire protection and mitigation procedures and tools will be in place for the entire operation of the facility. In the unlikely event of a fire, the facility will be equipped with automatic detection and suppression systems, as well as a pre-piped water spray system that can be used by first responders. This will avoid the need for first responders to enter the enclosure to address a potential fire. We will also work with local leaders and emergency management agencies, such as the fire department, to educate first responders, as well as the public, on the characteristics of the facility and train them on what to do in the event of emergency, similar to other electrical equipment and substations.

Will you use the battery system to power the island during severe weather events?

During extreme weather, battery storage systems can provide a local supply of energy to power parts of the community if the energy grid that delivers power to the area is damaged. While we don't currently have plans to use the battery storage system for this purpose, it is something we are exploring and may be able to implement in the future.

How does this project and Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) relate to our environment and community safety?

We understand some customers have concerns about Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) and we take those concerns seriously. Battery storage is a low voltage system that will have minimal impact on any EMF levels that currently exist due to other electrical sources in the area. Safety is our top priority and it is a constant consideration as we design, operate and maintain the local energy grid. We keep up to date on the most current research and design our projects accordingly.

It is important to remember that we live with EMF every day. EMF is present wherever there is electric current and can be found in homes, offices and schools. More than 40 years of research has concluded that exposure to EMF has not been shown to cause or contribute to any adverse health effects.

What emissions does it produce?

The facility does not produce any emissions. This facility stores electricity and supports the delivery of power to local homes and businesses; it does not generate electricity.

How much does it cost and who pays for it?

The project represents a \$7.5 million investment in the energy grid serving Beach Haven and Long Beach Island, funding work that would occur in 2023 as part of Atlantic City Electric's comprehensive effort to build a smarter, cleaner energy grid. The \$7.5 million project is part of the hundreds of millions of dollars we put towards modernization efforts across our service area each year. The costs of reliability projects such as this are spread across all our customers over the course of several decades.

What is Atlantic City Electric's experience with battery storage?

This project is Atlantic City Electric's first involving battery storage; however, our Exelon sister companies have successfully installed several battery storage projects and we are applying their best practices to this project. Delmarva Power developed and implemented a battery storage project in partnership with Chesapeake College on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Other Exelon companies have successfully implemented battery storage technology to improve reliability and enhance the customer experience. These include Baltimore Gas and Electric's Coldspring substation, and two energy storage pilot projects led by ComEd in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood.