

Tewksbury Town Crier



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OPINION



*Letters to
the editor*

Resident against proposed lithium-ion battery storage center location

To the editor,
I am writing in opposition to the proposed lithium-ion battery storage center in Tewksbury.

There have been many incidents of similar facilities across the U.S. catching fire due to the flammable nature of the battery storage units and the heat they generate. Fires involving this material usually resist normal firefighting methods and need to be allowed to "burn out."

Because of the densely populated area where this facility is proposed, I am quite certain that Tewksbury fire and rescue servic-

es would be unable to evacuate residents in a timely manner. There are many elderly, non-ambulatory people in the surrounding community, including those in an assisted living facility. Such an evacuation would be a nightmare.

It makes no sense to put such a facility in close proximity to densely populated areas. Please join me in contacting your state senators, representatives, governor, and lieutenant governor to express your opposition to this plan.

Claire Shoaie
Tewksbury

Stop lithium-ion storage site planned for Tewksbury

To the editor,
As a citizen who cares about my community, I am deeply concerned about the new battery storage site that has been proposed for Tewksbury off Old Boston Road at Hillman and Rockland Streets. The proposal is for 169 stand-alone units, each 19.9 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 9.5 feet tall. Each unit will weigh 93,700 pounds.

This facility does not belong near any residential area because it presents dangers such as fire, toxic vapors, environmental contamination, noise pollution, and wetland disruption. Fires at other plants, such as in California's Moss Landing in January 2025, have taught us that a lithium battery fire spreads very rapidly, cannot be put out with water or foam, emits toxic vapors, and has long-lasting negative effects on a community.

People in homes, schools, and businesses would be impacted. In Tewksbury, within a half-mile radius alone, there are 1,227 residents who would be affected. Needed evacuation would be a nightmare as Rte. 38 is the only main exit road. Schools and businesses, senior living communities, and Alzheimer's units would be endangered. Ambulances would be needed. Traffic would rapidly come to a standstill.

I am writing this letter because I care about us all. These battery storage facilities have no place in any residential area. Please spread the word to your neighbors and contact our town officials with your concerns. Keep Tewksbury safe. SAY NO before it is too late.

Thank you for caring.

Peggy Schleicher,
Tewksbury