



TEWKSBURY — After a year and a half of hearings, pushback and protest, a controversial battery storage site proposed in the town of Tewksbury has been withdrawn, with the company behind the project citing costs as the reason.

The Hillman Energy Center was a proposal for a 125-megawatt battery storage site on a 4.3-acre property at 73-75 Hillman St. in Tewksbury which drew intense scrutiny over concerns about the site's safety and the possible impacts to the surrounding area if a disaster like a fire broke out at the facility. The project was put forward by East Point Energy, a subsidiary of Norway-based Equinor.

The proposal had received approval from the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board in June, but earlier this week the company filed a motion to the EFSB to withdraw the proposal entirely, citing the recently discovered cost of connecting the project to the grid upon completion.

“In a motion filed with the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB Docket 26-02) on September 1, 2026, Hillman cited results from the ISO-NE Transitional Cluster Study showing grid interconnection upgrade costs ‘greatly exceeded previous estimates,’ making the project ‘economically unviable,’” the town of Tewksbury said in a statement on social media Tuesday announcing Hillman’s withdrawal.

The motion to withdraw came after the company had filed another motion with the EFSB for an extension of time to answer a set of information requests from the board. Before that request for more time was made, the company received the results from the cluster study detailing the costs to upgrade the power grid so that the Hillman project could connect to it, according to the motion.

In the motion to withdraw, Hillman Energy Center requests that the withdrawal be granted “without prejudice,” meaning that the company would be free to bring the proposal forward again in the future.

The biggest concentration of pushback against the project came from the residents of the Emerald Court neighborhood, which is home primarily to adults over the age of 55. Maureen DiPalma, who began the 30-acre development more than 20 years ago and is a resident herself, said in a phone call Thursday that she and her neighbors are “thrilled, to say the least” at the withdrawal.

“Emerald Court is celebrating. We are going to have party after party,” said DiPalma.

Among the many concerns DiPalma and other Emerald Court residents had was whether there was a proper evacuation plan for the older population, and how toxic gases may spread from the nearby battery site if there were ever to be a fire there. In such a scenario, DiPalma and other opponents of the battery site have expressed concern over whether an older population like that of Emerald Court would be able to flee quickly enough.

DiPalma owns other properties in the vicinity as well, including an occupied house roughly 40 feet from the edge of the proposed site.

In the year and a half since this project became known to the residents of Emerald Court, DiPalma said “everyone did something” in the effort to oppose it, including going door to door to give out information to neighbors and contacting state officials.

“It all fell on deaf ears to the EFSB,” said DiPalma.

Christine Chesbrough, another Tewksbury resident who pushed back against the project, said in a statement Thursday she is “really happy” at the result.

“This was a long fight. I met and worked with so many great residents, which was a really good thing to come out of this. I was shocked by the withdrawal, but I believe this is the best thing for Tewksbury,” said Chesbrough. “Now those living at Emerald Court can stop spending their time fighting this and finally relax. They were put through a lot. Those living in the area can stay in their homes, and the businesses don’t have to worry.”