



Winchendon Fire Department

405 Central Street
Winchendon, MA 01475
Telephone (978) 297-5415
Fax (978) 297-5417

Thomas J. Smith
Fire Chief

Murdock Ave Battery Storage Project

October 10, 2023

To Winchendon Planning Board,

I would like to officially inform you that Deputy Bryan Vaine and I have met numerous times with Tom Corbett from Zero-Point Development to discuss the proposed battery storage project on Murdock Ave. Mr. Corbett has addressed all of the concerns and answered any questions we may have had about this style of project for Winchendon.

Energy Storage Systems of this size are required to meet many NFPA and UL codes and standards. Upon completion of the project, a UL9450 field certification from a qualified person will be performed. It should be noted the NFPA codes for these systems are ever changing to reflect fire and life safety and the Winchendon Fire Department reserves the right to make changes to our list of requirements as codes and standards evolve with the industry.

Emergency response to these types of systems is that of a normal structure fire. Water is the preferred method of suppression on these systems although guidance from the project's fire safety consultants will drive our response since they are the subject matter experts. Zero-Point has provided our department with an updated guidance letter from their fire safety consultants at Energy Safe Response Group discussing the benefits of allowing the energy to burn out of the system if possible. I am confident that with this information and our prior fire extinguishment knowledge, the Winchendon Fire Department, working with Zero-Point Development, has all the tools necessary to protect the community in the event of an incident at the battery storage area.

The following are requirements of the Winchendon Fire Department on this project:

1. There shall be a Knox Box at all gated entrances.
2. Smoke and heat alarms within each containment area along with gas detection and automatic ventilation.
3. Each battery cabinet shall be plumbed with a sprinkler system furnished with deluge heads (NFPA 855)
4. Each battery cabinet shall be furnished with a dry standpipe with connections consistent with WFD.
5. Each battery cabinet shall be numerically labeled.
6. Each dry standpipe shall be labeled as to which battery cabinet it is plumbed to.
7. A placard shall be visible showing the location where the utility disconnects are located.
8. There shall be a sign with an emergency contact phone number for the system operator.
9. Fire hydrant shall be installed in the area of the double gated entrance to the project.



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10. The access road shall be maintained to keep the roadway open to emergency personnel during all seasons.
11. An individualized, site specific Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is to be in place prior to commercial operations of the facility.
12. Initial training for the fire department shall be provided on the project proponent upon mechanical completion.
13. On a yearly basis, the project proponent shall supply updated guidance from ESRG, as well as updated training if needed and yearly sprinkler test results.
14. A multi-gas meter shall be provided to the department to monitor air quality for any gases that may be sourced from contents of materials on site.
15. The placement of any potential sound barriers that may be installed shall be outside of the secured area to allow for the greatest space for public safety.
16. Any unforeseen issues that may arise during the project, Zero-Point Development will work with the Winchendon Fire Department to resolve the issue to the best interest of public safety.

In the event of any questions please feel free to reach out to me either at the above office numbers or via email at TSmith@Winchendon-MA.gov

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Smith
Winchendon Fire Chief