

Large Capacity Energy Storage Systems Moratorium in Limited Areas

Add Section 8.8 as follows:

The Town of Worthington has placed a temporary moratorium on commercial Large Capacity Energy Storage Systems (ESS) in the Worthington Water Supply District, the Flood Plain and Westfield River Protection District, the Westfield River Watershed (designated as an Outstanding Resource Water), MassWildlife BioMap3 Core Habitats and Critical Natural Landscapes, Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPA) around all Public Water Supplies, as well as a 300-foot setback from residences and structures where the public congregates, for the purposes of updating protective zoning by-laws as well as creating a Large Capacity ESS Overlay District. Additionally, the moratorium prohibits ESS of capacity larger than 5MWh. The Overlay District will provide Designated Locations based on site suitability criteria in order to strengthen protection of public safety, and highly vulnerable water and environmental resources. Protection of these critically important public water sources is incompatible with hazardous materials potentially released from ESS due to fire, vandalism and extreme weather events, as well as site disruption, fracture of the hydrologic barrier and erosion from large scale installations. The moratorium is in effect in those critical areas to provide urgent protection to the public's health and safety. ESS shall continue to be allowed in the remainder of the town. The moratorium shall be in effect through June 30, 2027 or until the town adopts amendments to the Zoning By-law Section 8.5 to adopt a Large Capacity ESS Overlay District map and other necessary revisions to protect the safety of the public and public drinking water, and align the By-Law with state and federal conservation regulations.

Amend Section 10 of the bylaws to add a subsection relating to 8.8 as follows:

The following relate to section 8.8 of this bylaw.

Energy Storage System (ESS): A device utilized to store electrical energy (AC or DC) by converting electrical energy into chemical energy or vice-versa. May consist of a single battery or multiple batteries or other means which accomplish this conversion. May also include any devices utilized to provide cooling to said storage device.

Small Capacity Energy Storage System: Any energy storage system less than 150 kWh.

Large Capacity Energy Storage System: Any energy storage system of between 150 kWh and 5MWh. Energy Storage Systems larger than 5MWh are prohibited.