

Ref 20053010

Dear Sir/Madam.

I appreciated the question asked of the Springwell representatives at the meeting in Lincoln (July 16th 2025) about the provision of an early warning system to warn nearby residents of Navenby if there was imminent danger of thermal runaway of any battery unit in the Navenby BESS. No provision had been made.

If this development is passed the Springwell company should make provision for an early warning system. I believe a siren or similar should be installed as it is efficient, quick and surely relatively cheap.

When I spoke to a fire consultant, he said that monitors needed to be on each battery unit to inform fire fighters of heat rises but suggested that a social media system would be good enough for local residents. When I questioned this, pointing out that many people do not use social media (and not during the night) he thought the police could knock on doors to inform us! Obviously far too slow and costly.

I restate my concern about the danger to local people and include some information below which was emailed to me. It is frightening. Obviously the example below is in a different area but the information on the dangers of the toxic plumes is appropriate to the Navenby BESS without which the Springwell development would not function.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 10:29:51 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FOI Request

Good morning,

Lithium-ion Battery Energy Storage Systems are becoming increasingly common, as are thermal runaway incidents. We now have 4 large scale BESS systems clustered around Bramford substation either in operation or under construction. With many more in the county.

One of the gases given off during thermal runaway is hydrogen fluoride, which can be carried in the wind. The prevailing winds from the BESS at Bramford substation have the potential to blow the gases across settlements of Bramford and into Ipswich. Hydrogen fluoride is particularly harmful as it can change to hydrofluoric acid with moisture contact, such as on the skin or inhalation.

The antidote to this is recommended to be kept in first aid kits, but this only deals with skin contamination.

Inhalation requires the antidote to be nebulized; a process, which I understand can only take place from an ambulance or hospital.

Should a thermal incident occur does the ESNEFT staff:

Have access to the antidote?

Is it kept on all ambulances?

Have a procedure in place to deal with a major thermal runaway incident?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]