Monarch Grid: Reliable, Affordable Power for McHenry County

Monarch Grid will help keep the power on in McHenry County when electricity demand is highest, such as during extreme heat in the summer or cold weather in the winter.

The 600 MW energy storage system will hold power when there is excess supply and instantaneously discharge when other power sources are stretched or temporarily unavailable

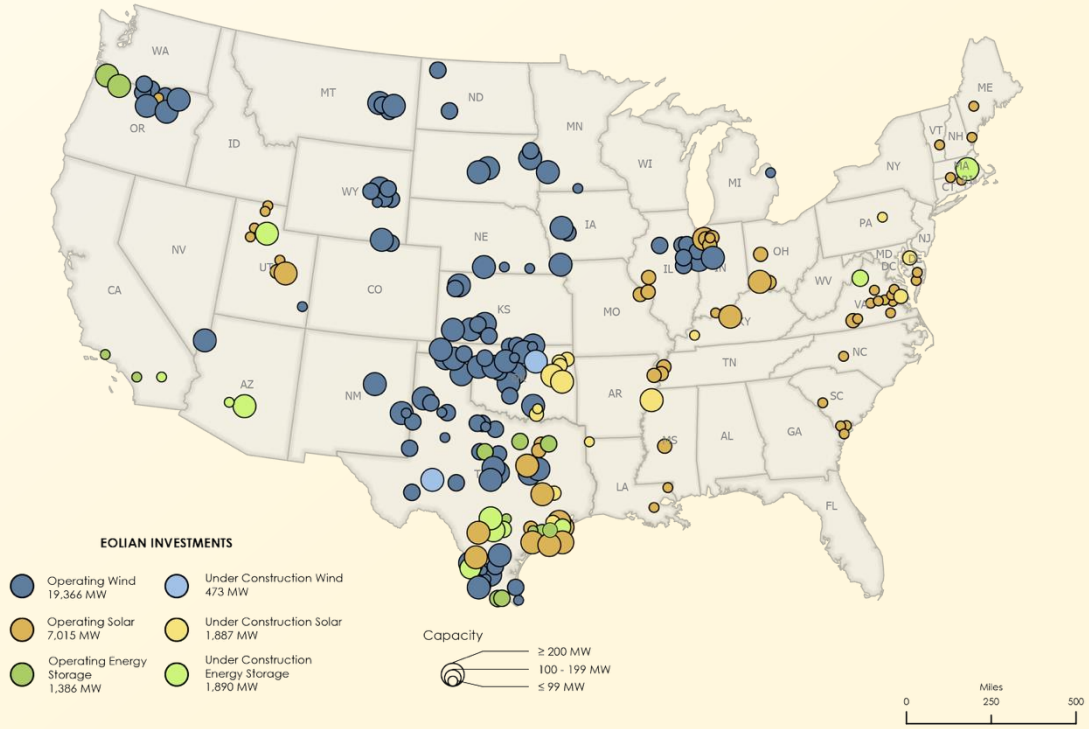
Bringing Monarch Grid to McHenry will help prevent power outages during high-stress moments, keeping costs and power stable and reliable for homes, schools, hospitals, and local businesses.

Monarch Grid: Developed By Eolian, A Proven Infrastructure Partner

- Eolian develops and operates battery energy storage projects that support grid reliability across the United States.
- We focus on helping communities and grid operators manage growing electricity demand safely, reliably, and cost-effectively.
- Our founding management team has worked together for more than 20 years, bringing deep experience and continuity to every project we develop.
- Over that time, we have helped develop nearly 30 gigawatts of operating or under-construction energy projects designed to perform during the most challenging grid conditions.
- That long-term perspective shapes how we approach our work: carefully, deliberately, and with an emphasis on building infrastructure that communities can rely on for decades.

eolian

US Projects Developed or Under Development



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+711 MWs
Operational Energy Storage

6
Operational Projects

5
Years of Operational History

No operational safety, environmental, or fire incidents

More Than a Developer, A Community Partner

Community Matters to Us

We don't just build projects. We believe the right way to develop energy infrastructure is to be a genuine part of the community, that's why we created the *Eolian Community Impact Fund*.

What That Looks Like in Practice

We don't decide from a corporate office what a community should care about. We work with local leaders, nonprofits, and residents to understand what matters most, and then we invest there.

Across our projects, we've supported:

Helping Families Stay in Their Homes Energy assistance programs that help neighbors struggling with utility bills keep the lights on

Building the Local Workforce Job training, apprenticeships, and career pathways so residents can access good-paying jobs

Supporting the Next Generation Scholarships for career and technical education so local students have opportunities close to home

Strengthening What Makes a Community Work Local nonprofits that reflect each community's priorities, from food banks to conservation groups to United Way chapters

Supporting What Matters to You

We want to understand what matters here. What organizations are doing important work? Where are the gaps? What would make a real difference for families in this community?

Those conversations will shape how the Community Impact Fund supports McHenry County, because the best investments are the ones the community helps define.

A Process Built on Years of Rigor Brings Us to Today

Before approaching the county or the community, Monarch spent years completing the rigorous technical groundwork that any responsible energy project requires.

Engineering & Grid Studies

Q1 2021-2023
Project Foundation & The Wait Begins

Site selected, land agreements signed, and initial application filed with PJM. Then we waited. PJM's interconnection queue can take years and moving forward required PJM's independent confirmation first.

Regulatory Process

2024:
Standard Regulatory Introduction

Monarch meets with McHenry County planning and economic development staff to introduce the project and learn about the county's standard zoning and permitting process required of any development project.

Engineering & Grid Studies

2025:
Independent Grid Studies Complete

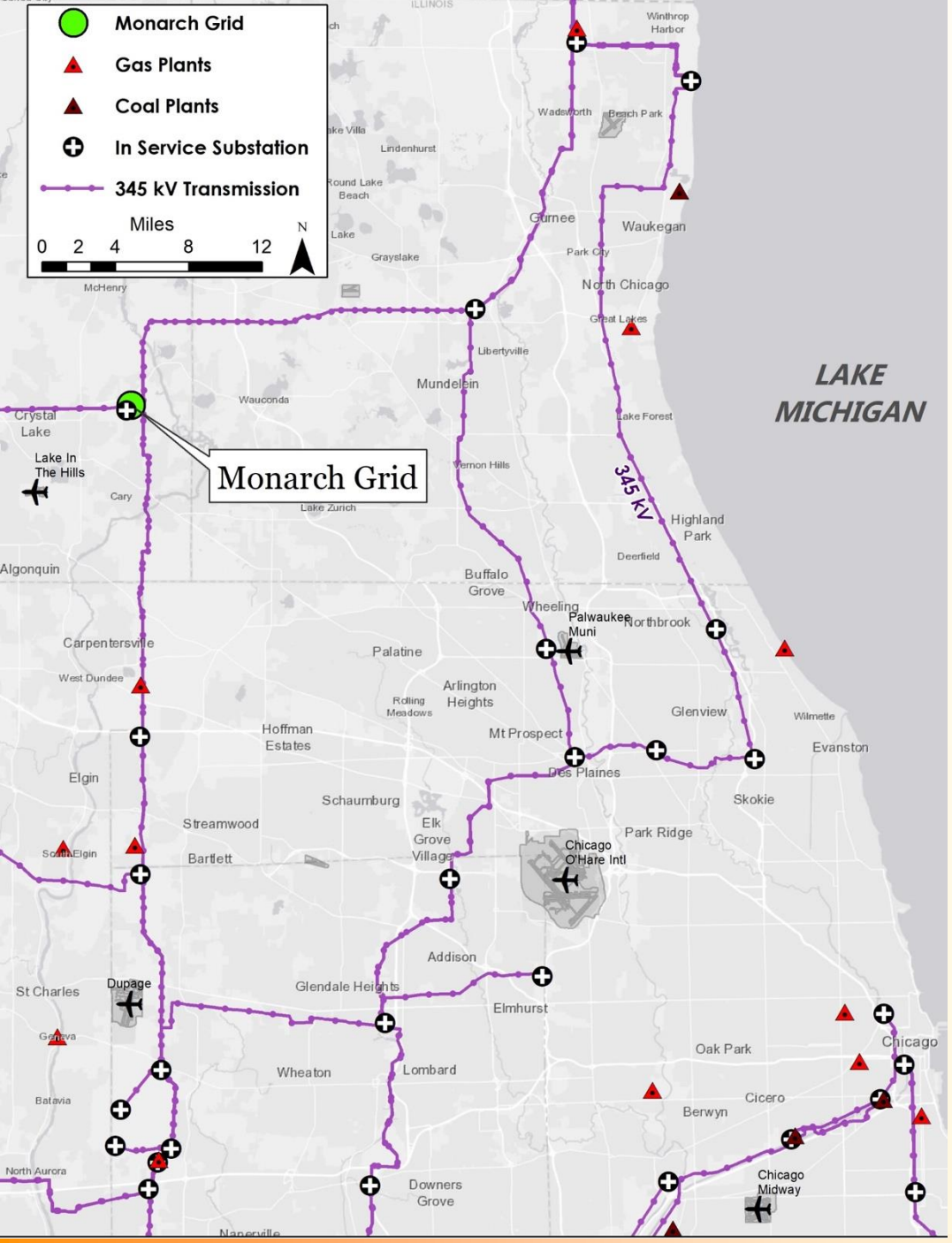
PJM completes its independent grid studies confirming the project's viability. Monarch provides a project update to county trustees as part of the standard regulatory process and begins broader community education efforts.

Community Engagement

March 2026:
Public Community Engagement Opens

Monarch hosts its first community forum, launching an open and ongoing dialogue with Prairie Grove and McHenry County residents. The community process is now beginning in earnest, and public input will directly shape what comes next.

What you see above is years of independent technical study and standard regulatory introduction.
The community process begins tonight.



Location chosen because of proximity to critical grid node responsible for moving energy around Chicago suburbs

Medway Grid

Medway, Massachusetts

- Operational battery storage, similarly situated to residential neighborhoods
- Reviewed by Massachusetts' independent Energy Facilities Siting Board
- 1,000+ pages of technical documentation, engineering analysis, and public comment
- Found to be safe with negligible impact to the surrounding environment
- Full permit application is publicly available

Your Voice Is Important to What Happens Next.

Nothing about this project moves forward without completing a full public permitting process. Here is what that looks like.

Community Engagement

First Half 2026: Ongoing Community Engagement

Public meetings, open houses, and direct outreach continue throughout the permitting process. What we hear from the community directly shapes how this project moves forward. This is not a formality. It is the point.

Regulatory Process

Mid-2026: Formal Permitting and Public Hearings

The formal permitting process includes public hearings where every resident has an official voice. Elected officials review the full record of community input before any vote is taken.

If Approved

2028: Construction Begins

Only after the permitting process is complete and approval is granted does construction begin. Approval is not assumed. The community process that is starting now will determine whether and how this project is built.

If Approved

2029-2030: Project Operational

If approved and built, Monarch Grid begins operations and annual tax payments to McHenry County schools and services begin immediately, continuing for the life of the project.

The permitting process ahead is a real and meaningful decision point, and the community engagement that begins tonight is a genuine part of that process. We are here because we want to earn your support, not because the outcome is already decided.

A Project That Will Bring Real Benefits

~$5mil

Annual Tax Revenue

To put this in perspective, it's equivalent to:

~7%
McHenry County Annual Property Tax Revenue

~3x
Prairie Grove Annual Property Tax Revenue

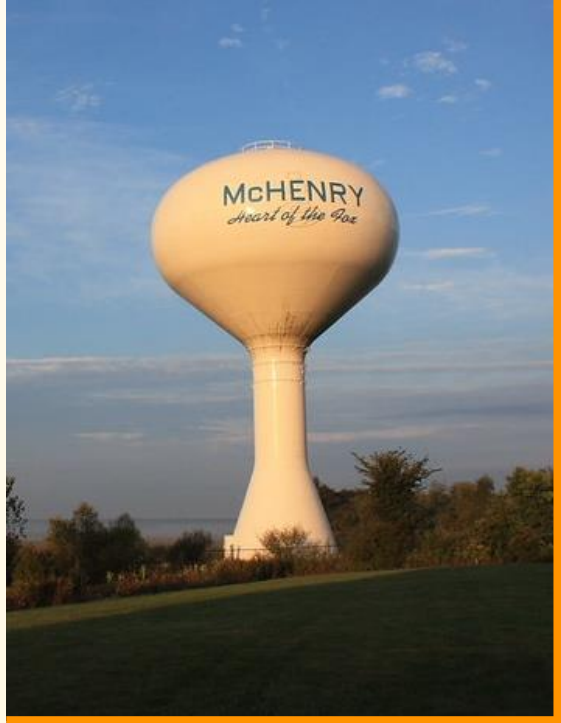
~11%
McHenry County Sheriff's Budget

33%
District 46 School Budget

- Lower Energy Costs
- Fewer Power Outages
- No Drain on Local Resources

Store when there is plenty.

Deliver when it’s needed.



BESS: A Low-Profile Project That Delivers High Value

How it works:

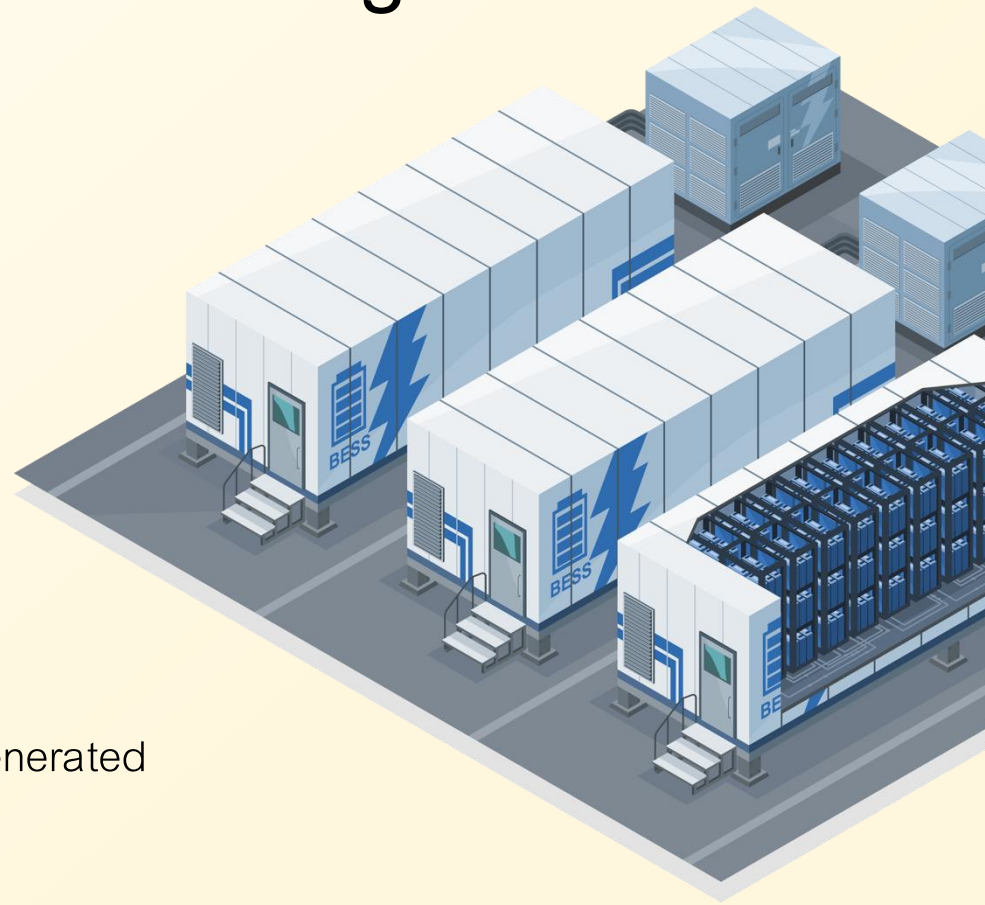
- Charges when electricity is abundant
- Stores that energy until it's needed
- Releases it back to the grid when demand is high

What is the make-up:

- Secure containers to house components
- Battery cells (similar technology to electric vehicles)
- Internal control systems to keep batteries at optimal temperature
- Monitoring equipment that tracks performance around the clock
- Safety systems that monitor and manage around the clock

What it's not:

- Unlike a power plant, it doesn't generate electricity, it stores energy generated from all sources
- It does not burn fuel – has no combustion, no exhaust, no emissions



Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are quiet, low-profile facilities that work around the clock to keep your lights on and your bills down.

Delivers Real, Tangible Benefits for Communities

Reliability

Reliability simply means the lights stay on. BESS acts as a local shield against outages, standing ready to instantly fill power gaps during storms or heatwaves to ensure our homes, schools, and hospitals remain powered when it matters most.

Affordability

By storing low-cost power during off-peak hours and releasing it during expensive demand spikes, BESS acts as a price 'shock absorber.' It prevents the utility from having to buy expensive emergency power during heatwaves, keeping rates lower for everyone.

More Reliable Energy. More Affordable Energy.
Makes ALL Sources for Energy Work Better

Stabilizing a Struggling Grid Keeps Your Lights On

The grid has to stay perfectly balanced every second of every day.

When a power plant unexpectedly trips offline, when demand surges on a hot afternoon or cold morning, when the evening rush hits, the system needs instant backup.

Traditional plants take 20-30 minutes to ramp up. That gap is when outages happen.

Adding Instantaneous Stability: Battery storage responds in milliseconds, not minutes. It keeps the grid frequency steady, provides instant backup when generators fail, and handles the evening surge when families come home and demand spikes.

What This Means for You

- Enough capacity to power approximately 450,000 homes during peak demand
- Instant response that prevents small problems from becoming widespread outages
- Reduced reliance on expensive, aging backup plants that drive up costs
- Helps prevent rolling blackouts that have plagued other regions

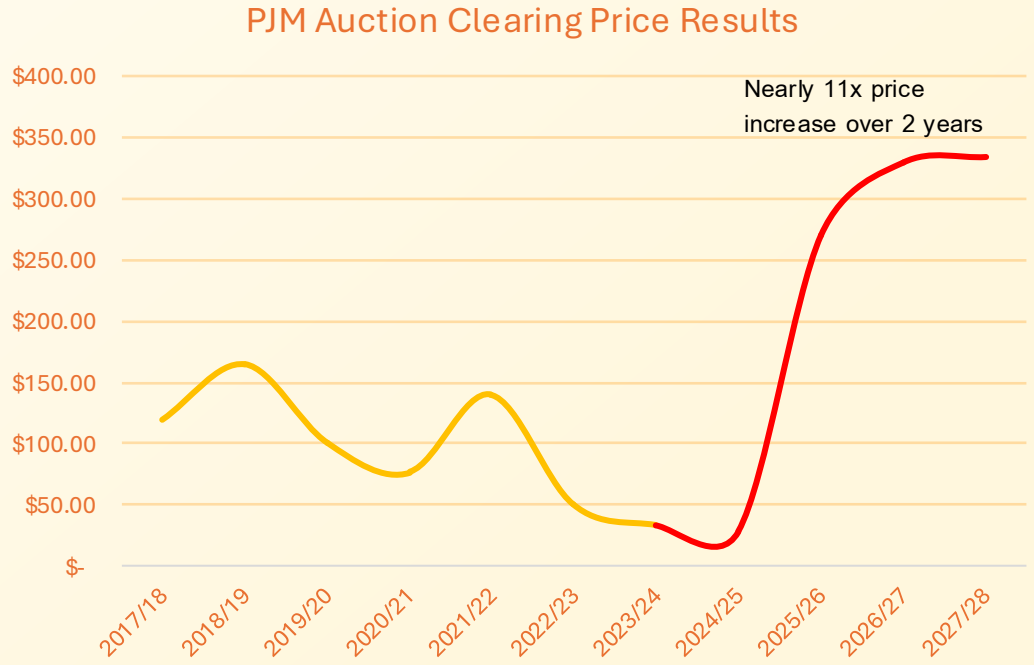
The Cost Benefits Are More Important Than Ever

McHenry County residents pay about $236 per month for electricity, 6% higher than the national average.

ComEd customers saw 20-25% bill increases in 2025 due to record-high capacity auction prices in the PJM market.

More Increases Coming: The 2026-2027 PJM capacity auction hit $329.17 per megawatt-day, roughly 11 times higher than two years ago. The cause: not enough supply to meet growing demand. The effect: Residents will see more increases in their bills in the coming years

BESS Lowers Costs: By charging when electricity is abundant and discharging when demand is highest, BESS adds supply to the market exactly when it's needed most to keep prices affordable



In Summary

BESS Reduces the price spikes that drive up your bill

SOURCE: https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/markets-ops/rpm/rpm-auction-info/2027-2028/2027-2028-bra-report.pdf

The Benefits Are Real

Texas and California have led growth of BESS in the US over recent years and are seeing the real benefits to historically unstable and expensive grids

Texas (September 2023)

During record heat and high demand, power prices surged toward the $5,000/MWh cap. Batteries released **1.8 GW of power**, reducing energy prices by **nearly 50%**. Battery storage supplied enough electricity to power approximately **434,000 homes** during the peak stress period. *(Source: Texas Comptroller)*

California (September 2024)

During a late-season heat wave, batteries discharged a record 8.35 GW into the California grid, representing **over 21% of total demand** at that moment. Unlike 2020 and 2022, no emergency conservation alerts or rolling blackouts were needed. *(Source: California ISO)*

Texas (2024)

Battery storage contributed to **$750 million in consumer savings** since 2023 by reducing peak power prices and lowering ancillary service costs. Real-time power prices dropped an average of **$31/MWh** compared to the previous year. *(Source: American Clean Power Association)*

https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/infrastructure/2024/battery-store/
https://blog.gridstatus.io/caiso-beats-the-heat/
https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/gateway/2024/12/ACP_Storage-in-ERCOT_2024_Analysis.pdf

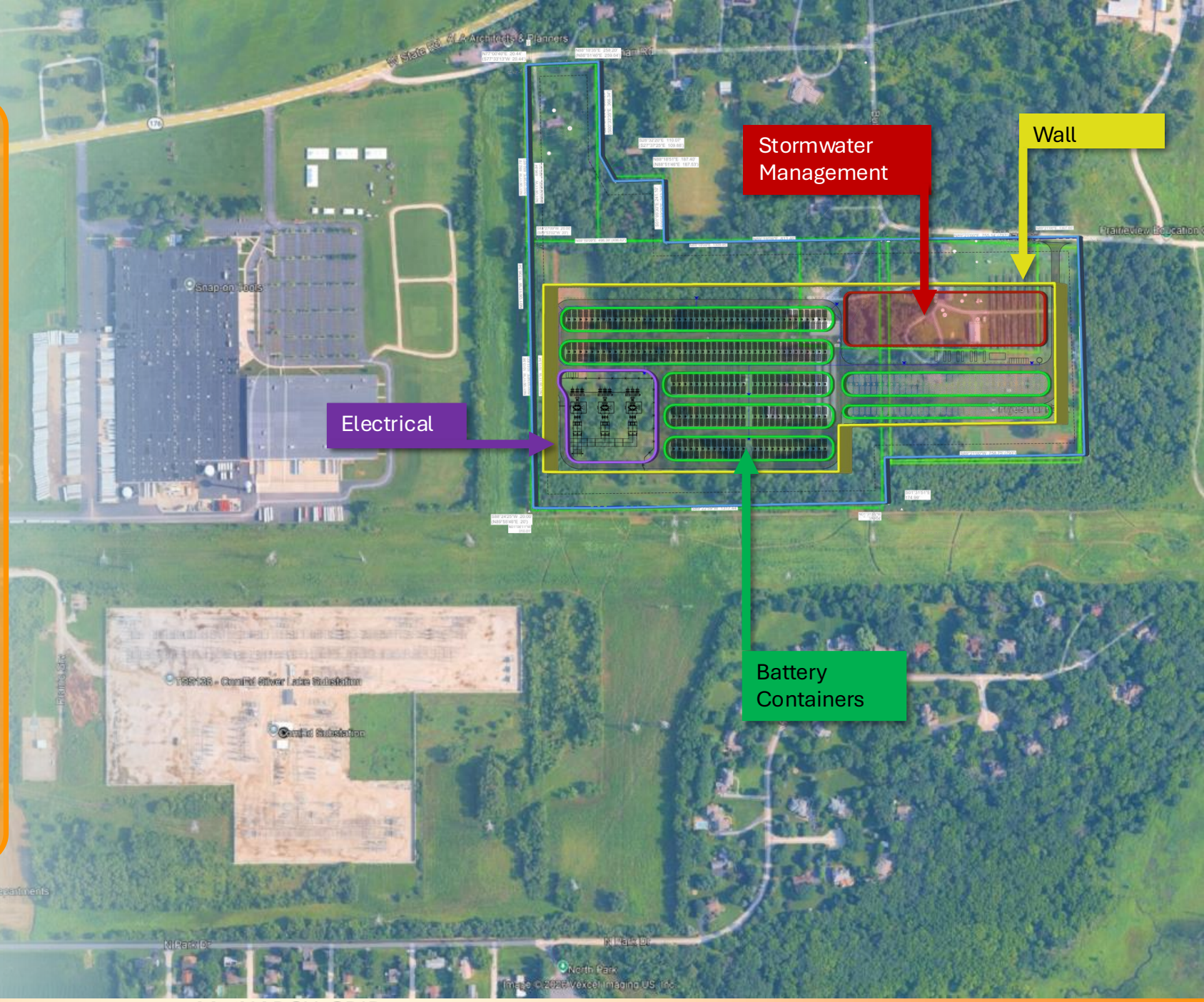
Monarch Grid: Community First Development

A Neighbor You Won’t Even Know is There

Extensive Environmental Studies Conducted

- Endangered species
- Cultural
- Wetlands
- Phase 1
- Geotechnical survey
- Boundary and topographical survey

Environmental studies completed during this time by third party engineering firms showed no impacts to the water, ecological and cultural resources located on site. In addition, the geotechnical investigation demonstrated the site would be compatible with the proposed use.



Before

At Installation

After 5 Years of Growth

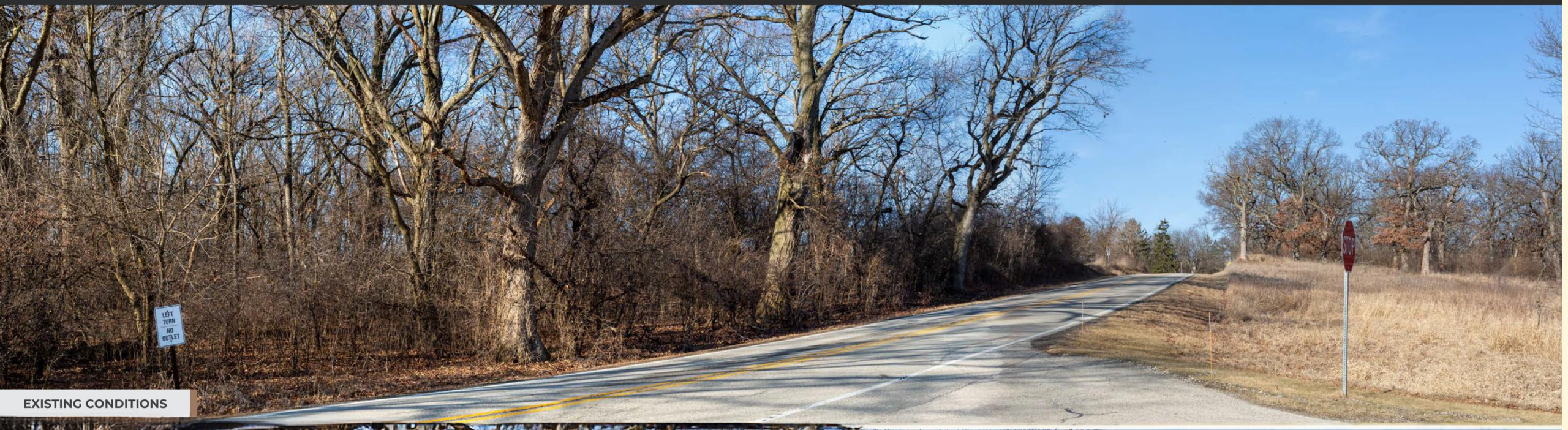
EXISTING CONDITIONS

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

OVERLAY

Objects displayed in yellow will be fully or partially obscured by terrain and vegetation.

Photo simulations are for discussion purposes only. Final design is subject to change pending public, engineering, and regulatory review.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

OVERLAY

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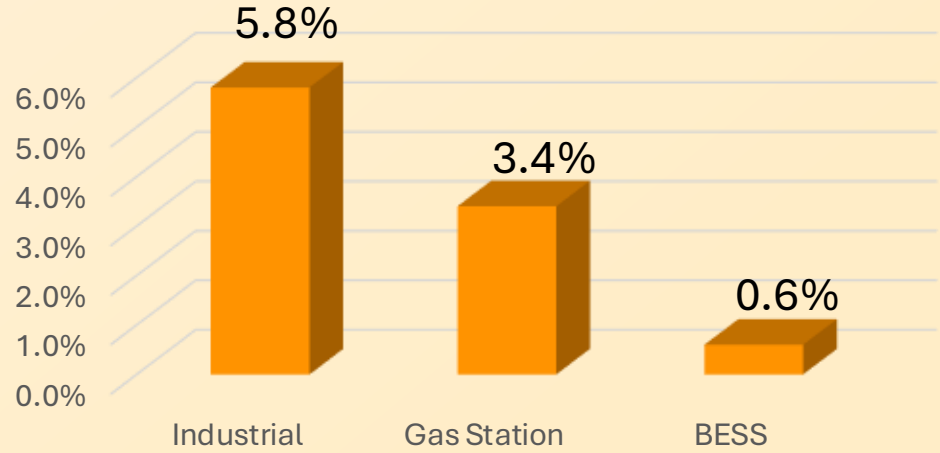
Built for Safety

Incidents often cited in the news and spread on social media involved **older chemistry** housed in **walk-in buildings** and built **before modern safety codes** existed. Monarch Grid uses a completely different architecture with technology that is safer than the phone battery in your pocket.

	The Old Standard	Monarch Grid Standard (2026)
Chemistry	NMC (Releases Oxygen)	LFP (No Oxygen Release)
Toxicity	Contains Cobalt & Nickel	No Heavy Metals
Enclosure	Walk-In Room (Traps Heated Air)	Outdoor Cabinet (Vents Heated Air Up)
Firefighter Risk	High (Must Enter Room)	Zero (Defensive / Outside Only)



In Summary

We are building to the highest standards: Safer chemistry, smarter containment, and zero compromise on public safety. We partner only with high-quality contractors that uphold the highest standards and share our commitment to safety.

What about the groundwater?

During Normal Operations: No Liquids = Zero Discharge

No Liquid Electrolyte: We use modern LFP batteries, which utilize a solid or semi-solid electrolyte that cannot "leak" or seep into the soil like oil or gasoline.

Double Containment: The containers sit on concrete foundations that act as a barrier between the equipment and the earth.

During a Rare Fire Incident: Managing Runoff

Defensive Strategy: Significantly less water is used to contain vs traditional firefighting, drastically reducing the volume of runoff.

Containment Design: The site includes stormwater management and containment basins designed to capture runoff before it can enter the local watershed or aquifer.

After the Rare Event of an Incident: Cleanup & Restoration

Secure Containment: Certified crews test and, if contaminants are detected, will pump the water from containment basins into tanker trucks for transport to a licensed treatment center.

Treatable Chemistry LFP byproducts (Iron, Phosphate, Lithium salts) are common minerals (already found in groundwater), not exotic "forever chemicals." Even in a worst-case scenario, the site will comply with local, state and federal regulations that require the site be remediated to previous conditions, ensuring no permanent damage.

The Infrastructure Is Already Here. The Benefits Should Be Too.

Why here in McHenry?

This location was selected because it makes sense:

- Transmission lines and a substation already on site, no new power lines through the community
- Adjacent to an existing industrial facility, fitting the character of the area
- Existing road access minimizes construction disruption
- This isn't about building new infrastructure across the county, it's about using what's already here in a better way to benefit the people who live here.

That infrastructure exists, this is an opportunity to put it to work for the community: generating tax revenue, creating jobs, and bringing infrastructure investment to McHenry County.

What This Means for McHenry

The Benefits Stay Local

- Property tax revenue for county services and local schools
- Construction jobs during development
- Permanent operations positions for the long term

McHenry County has the infrastructure. This project turns it into local jobs, local tax revenue, and lasting investment on a site designed to fit in.

~$5mil

Paid in Taxes Annually

110

McHenry County Jobs During Construction

We want to hear from you

Upcoming Open House
(date to be determined and communicated in the coming weeks)

Submit Questions or Concerns via our website www.monarch-grid.com

Email us at info@monarch-grid.com

Thank you.