Moss Landing Battery Fire Response

Emergency Response, Planning & Preparedness Branch

US EPA Emergency Response & Removal Program

- Situations we respond to:
  - **Hazardous substance** sites and releases
  - **Oil** releases
  - **Natural disasters**
- Types of responses
  - **Emergencies**: immediate action needed
  - **Removal actions**: planned site cleanups
  - **Natural disasters**: large FEMA responses

On-Scene Coordinators

The OSC is the federal official responsible for directing responses to releases or threats of release of hazardous substances.

Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility

- Phase I: 300 MW (ML300)
- Phase II: 100 MW (ML100)
- Phase III: 350 MW (ML350)

Response Timeline

- On **January 16, 2025**, a battery module in the ML300 building ignited, resulting in a large fire.
  - Evacuation order was issued to area, approximately 1,200 people (lifted on **Friday, January 17th, at 6 p.m.**).
  - Monterey County Health and North County Fire requested assistance from EPA to provide air monitoring.
- **January 18, 2025:** Fire goes out. EPA consulted with county and transferred air monitoring to Vistra on **January 20**.
- **January 22, 2025**: EPA issues a Notice of Federal Response Action to Vistra.
- **February 18, 2025**: small flare-up burned for approximately 10 hours (to date, no additional incidents of smoke or fire).
  - California Environmental Protection Agency requested that EPA lead the oversight of Vistra's battery removal work.
- **From January to July 2025**, EPA focused on negotiation of battery removal agreement (ASAOC), technical review of detailed project plans, and preparation for battery removal.

Administrative Settlement and Order on Consent

- Signed July 17, 2025.
- Outlines Vistra's obligations, clarifies EPA's expectations for the battery removal.
- Vistra will conduct and pay for the battery removal and disposal process under EPA's oversight.
- Vistra to submit work plans to EPA for approval.
- EPA will oversee work until impacted batteries removed from the site.
- Once battery removal work is complete, the oversight role will return to state and local agencies.

ML300 Battery Overview

Battery Module (99,858)

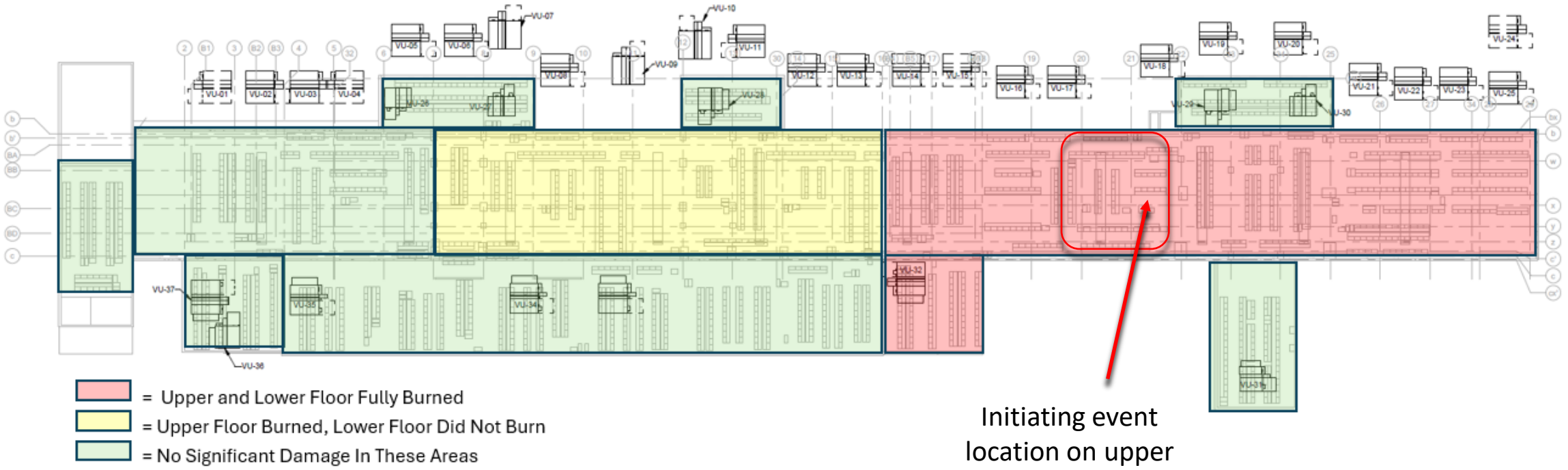
Battery Rack (22 Modules)

ML300 Building Aerial Before Fire

ML300 Building After the Fire

ML300 Building Assessment of Damage

Damage Assessment as of 4/1/2025 using internal inspections

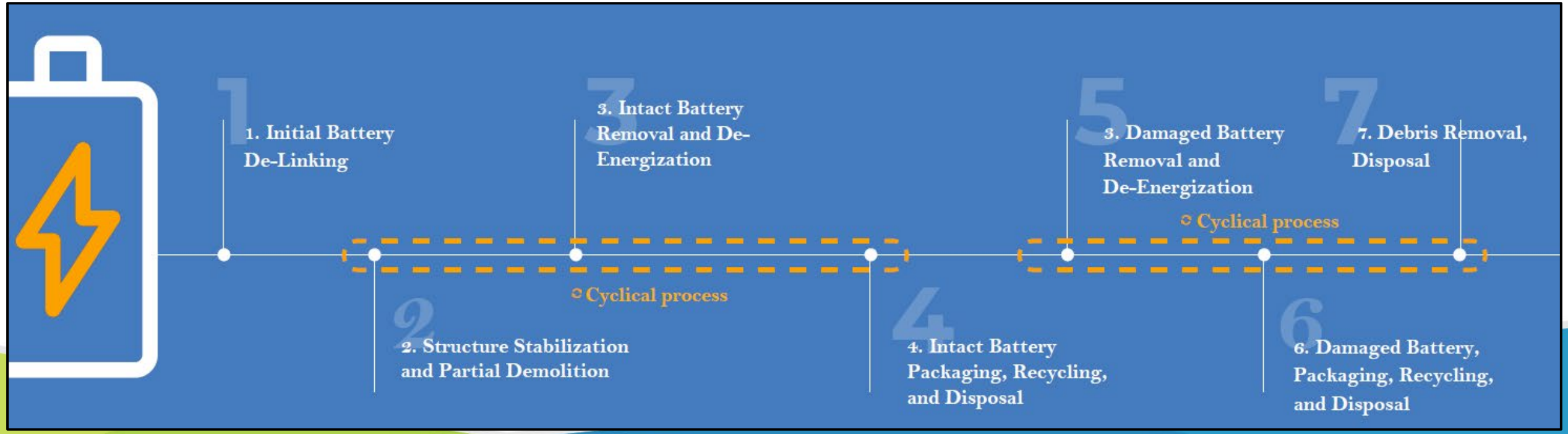


Current Status

- No safety events, including flare-ups, since mid-February
- Structural engineering firm did initial evaluation of the building in January to determine safe-entry areas
- Battery modules delinked in all safely-accessible racks
- Structural engineering firm on-site for detailed demolition planning
- Demolition contractor on-site for structure stabilization and partial-demolition
- Contractor on-site to manage battery removal, discharge, shipping and recycling
- American Battery Technology Company in McCarran, Nv. recycling facility

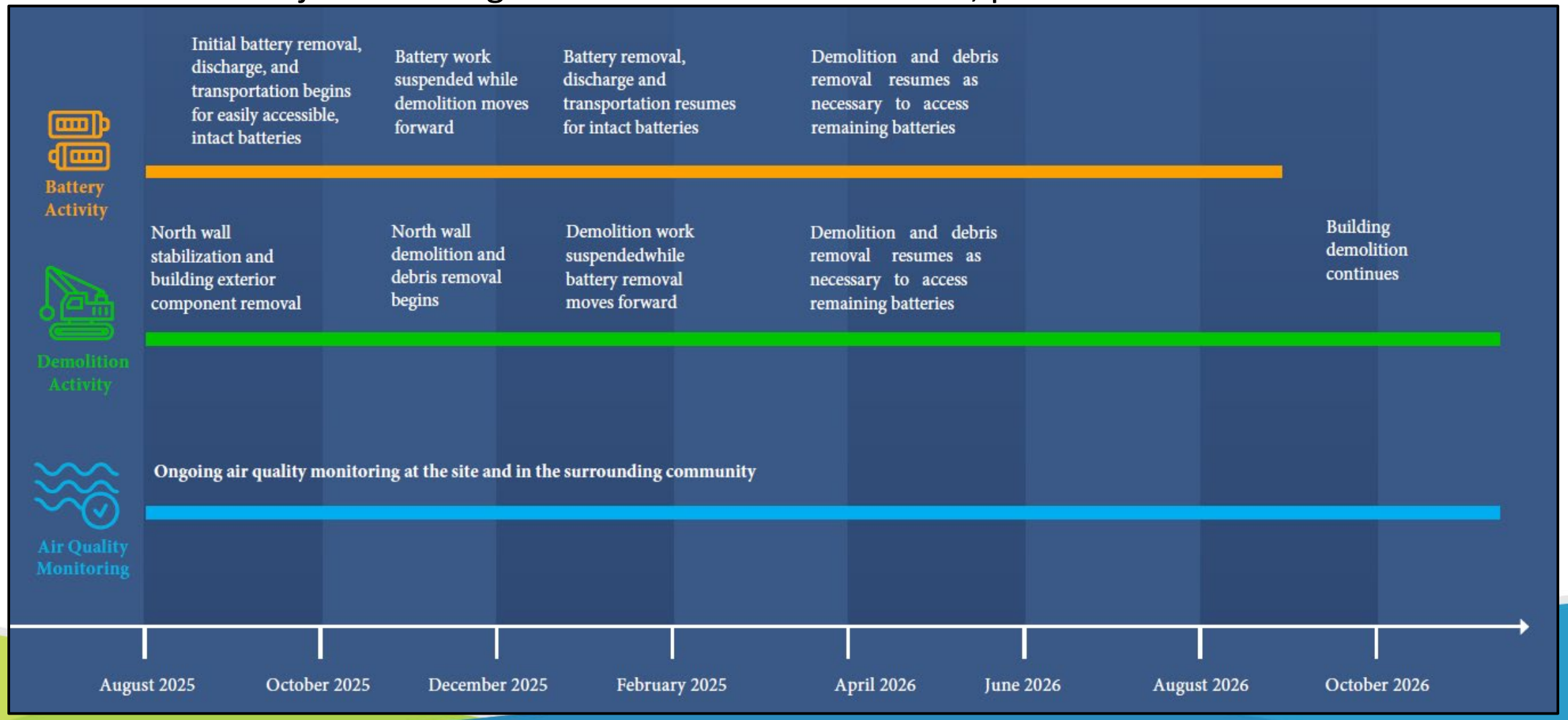
Phased Approach to Demo and Battery Removal

- About 45 percent of the batteries remain intact in the building—these still hold charge and will be removed first.
- We expect this process to take more than a year to complete, with an estimated end date in the final months of 2026.



Projected Timeline

The timeline subject to change. For the latest site activities, please visit our website.



Planning and Preparedness

Onsite fire & rescue

- North County Fire Dept. regularly visits site, involved in planning efforts
- Private firefighting/rescue on-site

Monitoring plans

- Private firefighting team performs building walkthroughs w/ temperature monitoring and visual checks to catch problems early
- Perimeter and community air **monitoring**
- Perimeter and community air **sampling**
- Thermal camera monitoring battery temperatures (during handling)
- Site specific emergency response plan developed

Planning and Preparedness

- **August 2025**: EPA hosted tabletop emergency preparedness exercise on-site, to review:
  - Safety and monitoring protocols during battery handling
  - Response strategies if an incident were to occur
  - Communication to the surrounding community

Preventing Off-Site Impacts from our Work

- **Good site hygiene—contain contamination in the building and on the site**
  - Batteries cleaned (HEPA vacuum and wipe down) during the initial inspection before sent to the battery-handling area
  - Workers wear full body suits (Tyvek) for protection in the building
    - Systematic removal of the suits (decontamination) when they leave the building to avoid tracking dust out
  - Dust suppression during demolition and related activities
- **Water from the work areas collected, sampled, and disposed of according to sampling results**
- **Air monitoring and air sampling at site perimeters and in the community**
  - 24/7 coverage
  - Active and expanded since the January fire

Agency Involvement

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Monterey County Health Department, Environmental Health Bureau
- State of California EPA
- State of California State Water Resources Control Board
- State of California Department of Toxic Substances and Control
- County of Monterey Department of Emergency Management
- North County Fire Protection District

Agency Roles

Incident Objective 1 –
Emergency Response, Battery Removal

- **LEAD: EPA Emergency Response (Overseeing Vistra)**
- Inside fence line
- Incident management, battery handling, on-site treatment, recycling and disposal

Incident Objective 2 –
Broader study on risk assessment from January fire

- **LEAD: Monterey County / CalEPA, DTSC**
- Outside fence line
- Assessment of longer-term exposure and impacts

Incident Objective 3 –
Long-Term Cleanup as Necessary

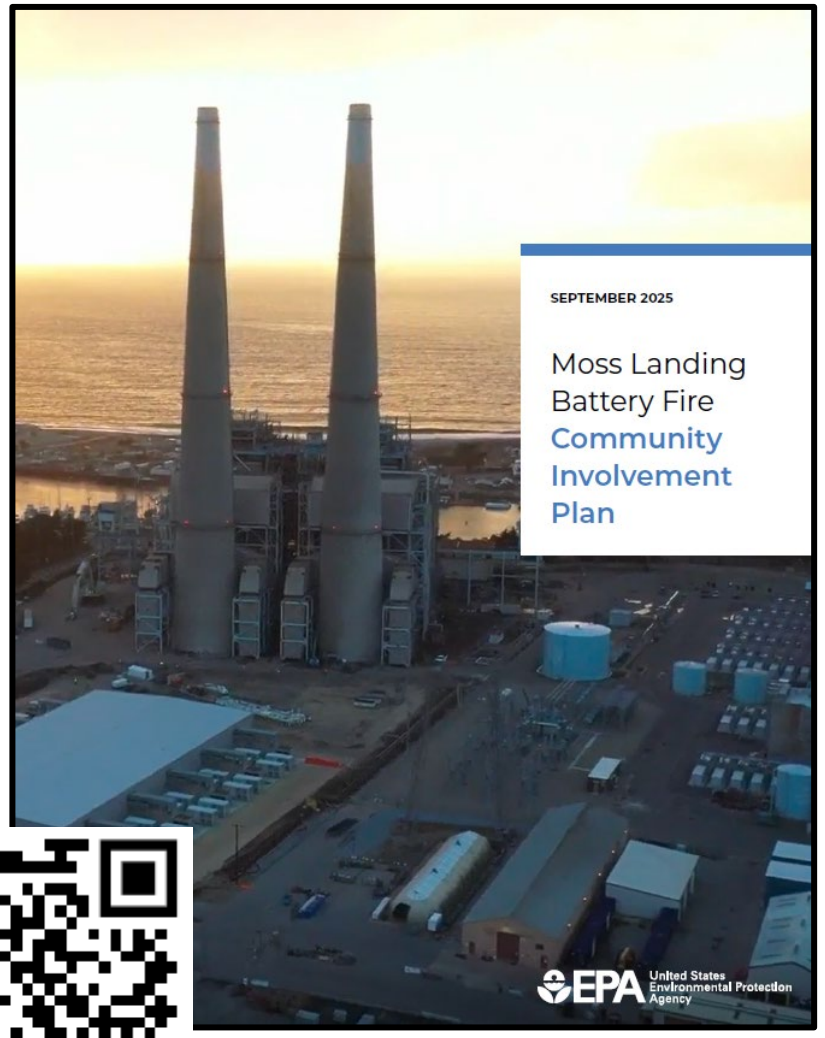
- **LEAD: Monterey County / CalEPA (Water Board and DTSC)**
- Assess any long-term remediation needs– surface water, groundwater, site characterization

Challenges

- **Interplay of hazards**:
  - Structural instability of the building
  - Potential instability of damaged batteries
- **Phased approach** to demolition and battery removal
- **Multi-agency coordination** to address community concerns, address threat of batteries remaining on-site

Community Involvement

- Our engagement is done with **deep respect** for the community and **openness to listen**
- **Community Involvement Plan** outlines our research, interview results, and site-specific engagement activities we will do throughout the project.
- For the most up-to-date information and details about the project**, visit the EPA Moss Landing website**
- **Email distribution list**



EPA Moss Landing website

EPA Moss Landing website

epa.gov/ca/moss-landing-vistra-battery-fire

Thank you
We'll take questions