1. Is there proof that our grid actually needs a BESS? Is there evidence proving how often our grid is overloaded/could benefit from a BESS? Is there evidence that electrical bills are actually reduced due to the installation of a BESS? How does this benefit the city/county residents?

BESS provide a number of technical grid service benefits, the main one being something called "capacity" service. Indiana's utilities pay a variety of different kinds of electricity generators (gas, coal, wind, solar, etc) for capacity service, and one barometer of how much they pay for that service is an annual capacity auction held by the grid operator MISO. As was presented at the public hearing before the BZA, the cost of capacity at that annual auction increased by 4400%, and numerous sources including MISO have discussed the impacts of this shortage of capacity both on grid reliability and on the cost of power in Indiana. See the bottom of this email for a table of the auction details. The below linked article discusses these issues and several other such articles were linked in the public presentation:

https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-midwest-may-have-summer-power-shortages-years-2022-06-10/

https://eu.heraldtimesonline.com/story/news/climate-change/2022/06/07/indiana-utility-companies-rolling-blackouts-worst-case-scenario/9942499002/

Regarding power prices, there's no guarantee that prices will go down or up as a result of any one project. But the current dramatic increase in costs the utilities are paying for capacity have to be passed through to consumers, and that capacity is coming largely from out of state which means it is less reliable and more of the economic benefits are going to communities outside of Indiana. By providing that capacity not only in-state, but in your community, your community gets the benefit of that grid resource but also the economic benefits of the project itself (~$15m in tax payments in the first 20 years, etc).

The grid benefits are not isolated to the immediate community, although proximity to a BESS during a storm or heat event can mean the difference between being part of a blackout or not, and there's no guarantee that the immediate community would avoid a weather related blackout. But a BESS as part of the regional grid will make that part of the grid more resilient and reliable for everyone in the region. In short, we view the proposed BESS as a very desirable upgrade to the nation's electric grid, which is of vital national importance and security.

2. Is a BESS good for the environment? Safety plan, especially considering Arizona BESS explosion in 2019?

BESS have no positive or negative environmental impact. They are a very passive land use, similar to the adjacent substation. They emit no pollution, no water waste or solid waste, require no pipelines or feedstock, generate no notable traffic past construction, are quiet at the property line, and are lower in profile than a single-story residential building which makes them easy to screen from site. Unlike lead-acid batteries, they have nothing that can leak and are not considered toxic.

While BESS facilities are safe and most never make the news due to a lack of any issues, Williams has incorporated state of the art safety technology and lessons learned from the Arizona BESS incident in which the combination of a buildup of gas in 1 BESS container, lack of emergency plan, and an EMS community that was not even aware that a BESS was present let alone how to address an incident led to

the injuries of the EMS personnel standing immediately next to the BESS unit (they opened the container when they should not have). Some key lessons the industry learned from that incident have been integrated into the newest technology, design, and national safety standards for BESS are:

1. Redesign of BESS towards uninhabited containers vs. habitable structures, which makes it much easier to ensure safety
2. Redundant sensors throughout the system to detect gas leaks/buildup
3. Annual EMS training
4. An emergency management plan that is shared with EMS and with the county/city officials and is available on site
5. Greater spacing between BESS containers

This is the short list of lessons learned, but there's a much longer list that has informed a whole next generation of safety components that have made BESS even safer than that prior generation of BESS in AZ (the AZ facility btw is similar to one that has been operating in Indianapolis by IP&L since 2016 without incident).

Williams will be subject to the latest national fire standard specifically for BESS (NFPA 855) which integrate lessons learned from the AZ incident. It will also include a site-specific and equipment-specific Emergency Management Plan that will be provided to local EMS, the city and county, and will be available on site. Local EMS will receive annual training on what to do if there's ever a fire.

3. How will this project affect any other agriculture nearby? What about the rest of the project acreage?

As a passive use without any environmental impact, Williams will have no impact on adjacent agricultural uses. The remainder of the parcel will not be owned by Williams and to our knowledge the existing owner intends to continue farming that acreage.

4. Are there plans to develop a solar farm and how would Williams impact future solar development?

Williams has a MISO queue application for a standalone BESS with no solar as part of the application. Williams permit application is only for a BESS and has nothing to do with solar nor does it give us rights to do solar. We have no plans or intentions or any application to pursue a solar farm. Additionally, if Williams comes online, while making the grid more resilient, the project will actually consume headroom/space on the regional transmission lines, which will make it harder for any new generator, be it solar or gas or wind, to electrically fit into the grid near Williams (this has to do with how MISO studies new proposed project interconnections to make sure the grid has enough room for them while remaining reliable). So Williams would actually make a solar farm in the immediate area less likely.

5. Bright lights? Property values?

Williams will be remotely monitored 24/7 with motion-detecting security lights within the fenceline and minimal downward facing lights for safety. There will be no bright outward-facing lights. Additionally the project will be fully screened with an evergreen vegetative screen that will obscure it from sight. Given its low physical profile, the passive nature of the use, and the existence of the massive substation and large overhead transmission lines on 3 sides of the project site, there is no reason to think the project would have negative impacts on nearby property values.

6. Neighbors.

There may have been a typo in the application, because the nearest neighbor is northeast of the project across the road, not southeast. In either case, the low profile of the site, passive use, and evergreen landscaping makes it unlikely that neighboring residences beyond 300' would even see the project let alone be impacted by the sight of it. The low profile, passive use, and evergreen landscaping, as well as the surrounding area of multiple large transmission lines and substation, are part of the reason we did not consider homes beyond ~500' to be even minimally impacted by this development.