

**Dominic J. Sisneros**

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**From:** Hank Hughes  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** Emma Felt; Dominic J. Sisneros; Greg Shaffer; Gabriel C. Bustos  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed AES Battery Energy Storage in Santa Fe

Hank Hughes  
Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 5



**SANTA FE COUNTY**

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**From:** Charles M. Kittredge [mailto:cmkittredge@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 5:58 PM  
**To:** Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed AES Battery Energy Storage in Santa Fe

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AES proposed

Battery Energy Storage System

With Lithium ion Batteries

In the middle of Santa Fe Residential areas

20 May 2024

Dear Commissioner Hughes,

A recent New York Times article pointed out that Battery storage is critical to the US meeting it's renewable energy goals.

With that given, It is becoming evidently clear that Lithium batteries are too dangerous and too expensive to meet the needs.

On a "tech" website (SlashDot) I recently saw the following:

[Lithium-Free Sodium Batteries Exit the Lab, Enter US Production \(newatlas.com\) 135](#)

Natron Energy, a pioneer in sodium-ion battery technology, has officially [commenced mass production of its lithium-free sodium batteries in its Holland, Michigan facility](#), offering an alternative energy storage solution with benefits such as faster cycling, longer lifespan, and safer usage compared to lithium-ion batteries. New Atlas reports: *Not only is sodium somewhere between 500 to 1,000 times more abundant than lithium on the planet we call Earth, sourcing it doesn't necessitate the same type of earth-scarring extraction. Even moving beyond the sodium vs lithium surname comparison, Natron says its sodium-ion batteries are made entirely from abundantly available commodity materials that also include aluminum, iron and manganese. Furthermore, the materials for Natron's sodium-ion chemistry can be procured through a reliable US-based domestic supply chain free from geopolitical disruption. The same cannot be said for common lithium-ion materials like cobalt and nickel.*

*Sodium-ion tech has received heightened interest in recent years as a more reliable, potentially cheaper energy storage medium. While its energy density lags behind lithium-ion, advantages such as faster cycling, longer lifespan and safer, non-flammable end use have made sodium-ion an attractive alternative, especially for stationary uses like data center and EV charger backup storage. [...] Natron says its batteries charge and discharge at rates 10 times faster than lithium-ion, a level of immediate charge/discharge capability that makes the batteries a prime contender for the ups and downs of backup power storage. Also helping in that use case is an estimated lifespan of*

*50,000 cycles.*\_

With this kind of technology entering the market it is obvious that continued use of Lithium-ion batteries unsafe and environmentally unfriendly.

We need to move toward renewable energy, but we need to do it in a safe and responsible way.

Charles Kittredge

Eldorado at Santa Fe