



Fw: Solar is an environmental disaster and so are AES' finances

From Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>

Date Tue 7/1/2025 10:05 AM

To Dominic J. Sisneros <djsisneros@santafecountynm.gov>; Gabriel C. Bustos <gcbustos@santafecountynm.gov>

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From: Jennifer Berkowitz <jenberkowitz@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 9:31:57 AM

To: Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>

Cc: Gabriel C. Bustos <gcbustos@santafecountynm.gov>

Subject: Solar is an environmental disaster and so are AES' finances

Warning:

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Dear Commissioner:

Prior to your upcoming vote, please read this overview of the disastrous environmental impacts that large scale solar facilities have on the environment and ecology. I am unsure why people are in denial over these well-documented effects, but it's time to wake up. <https://solareis.anl.gov/guide/environment/>

This was written long before Trump took office, so please don't try to attribute it to some right-wing conspiracy.

In addition, AES, which the Commissioners seem determined to get in bed with, is at risk of financial insolvency. The companies stock price dropped over 40 percent in a year's time. The company is laden with over \$4 billion in debt to boot. When corporations are in financial peril, you know what they do: they cut corners in order to cut costs. This adds an additional element of vulnerability to this fiasco of a project. And if they become insolvent, they'll abandon the site in a hot minute, leaving a dangerous mess for the county to clean up. This will be particularly difficult because the county's property tax revenue will take a nose dive if the project goes forward as home values will be decimated.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Berkowitz
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Santa Fe, NM 87508

P.S. And did I mention that the cobalt used in lithium batteries is mined by child slaves in the Congo. Do you condone or condemn this? I guess we'll know soon enough.