



In support of CUP - case #24-5200 Rancho Viejo Solar

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To Public Comments AES/BESS Permit Hearing <publiccomment@santafecountynm.gov>

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I am presently installing solar PV and battery storage for my house in Santa Fe. Not all people in Santa Fe can do this but they also deserve the same benefits. Solar plus batteries likely will replace gas generation and perhaps coal. Both of these have toxic releases that far outweigh anything from solar and batteries. There are risks from any option but it is very unlikely that the risks from solar and batteries will approach that of coal or gas.

Over 95% of new generation is solar and wind. The costs for either is much lower than gas or coal and the cost is fixed and not subject to fluctuations in fuel costs. As demand for electricity increases coal is not an option and the waiting time for gas turbines is about seven years. Solar (or wind) are really the only options for meeting increasing demand.

Since virtually all new generation is solar and wind and both under attack it may be difficult to expand supply to meet energy demand. An unstable supply of energy is a real possibility during high demand periods. People in Santa Fe need to have the protection that this project will provide in a world with increasing uncertainty about supply.

Construction will provide 200+ jobs and increase tax revenue that can fund our local roads and schools. The location is low risk with low fuel for the spreading of fire in the very unlikely event of a battery fire. It is also in a location that is unlikely to be impacted by wildfires.

If solar and batteries are safe enough for my house then it is safe enough to be installed in a facility like this. There are many people like me that have solar plus batteries in Santa Fe. This facility has much more safety measures than that for individual homeowners with solar and batteries with monitoring and fire suppressant.

For these reasons I support the Rancho Viejo solar plus battery energy storage system project. The risks are low and much less than other options for providing electricity and provides protection against power outages in Santa Fe.

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