



OPPOSE AES Rancho Viejo Solar Project

From Jerri Katzerman <jerriarizona@msn.com>

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

My name is Jerri Katzerman and I am a resident of Eldorado.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the AES Corporation's Rancho Viejo Solar Battery Project in Santa Fe County.

The AES Corporation is a global Fortune 500 power company based in Virginia with \$45 BILLION in assets and revenue of \$12.7 BILLION in 2023 alone. They are proposing to build a utility-scale battery storage/solar facility on 724 acres in what is currently zoned as a residential area less than a mile from homes in an urban-wilderness area of Santa Fe County. The 570,000 lithium-ion battery cells would be housed in some thirty-eight, 40-foot containers. They plan to have 4 workers on site only during business hours and the facility would be monitored remotely by automated fire protection and mitigation systems that have a potential 25%+ failure rate.

AES' proposal does include an attached solar array with more than 205,000 solar panels as well as a 2.3 mile, up to 70-foot-tall high voltage, above ground, transmission line and a new 1-acre substation to connect to PNM's electric grid.

The global energy giant's focus on the solar array is an attempt to divert attention away from the very real dangers of a utility-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) surrounded by more than 10,000 homes in Eldorado, Rancho Viejo and Rancho San Marcos.

With persistent and ever increasing high winds, very high wildfire risk, no west-end exit in Eldorado nearest the BESS and more than 20 minutes from adequate fire response and Haz mat personnel, the worst-case consequences of locating a utility-scale battery facility here are terrifying.

This project should not be approved.

Thank you.