



FW: The AES "dust-up" over the Rancho Viejo Project

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From: Nancy Johnson <nejohnson@cybermesa.com>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 3:12 PM
To: Nancy Johnson <nejohnson@cybermesa.com>
Subject: The AES "dust-up" over the Rancho Viejo Project

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Subject: The AES "dust-up" over the Rancho Viejo Project

I am a 22 year resident of Eldorado so I have known of several 'dust-ups' with Warren Thompson (like the proposed, then died, major truck stop/rest area off I-25 at Route 14). Now we face a much more potentially devastating to many, an utility/industrial scale solar energy project that is right in our neighborhoods but will impact others.

The arguments pro and con are well known. But on Next Door last week, one of the very pro-solar people told the rest of us to "take the risk". Yes, the Governor has set a timeline for when she wants New Mexico to be completely energy self-sufficient. She did not say that it had to be within Santa Fe county! There are many open areas in our State where up to 10,000 people are not located within a mile of the risk area. This arrangement that I question seems to be an opportunistic agreement between a landowner and a solar company (with major fines in their history). Is this how the County makes decisions, whether or not the residents will be impacted ...pro or con?

And what is "risk"? Most people are using it in terms of fire. So perhaps there is no fire from the BESS containers in the 35 (or however long AES decides to stay and then abandons the property) years the project is with us. But what about the other risks: home owner insurance rates skyrocket or are cancelled and the companies leave the area, county, state - which is happening in many areas of the country including here already; existing wildlife corridors that may be centuries old are blocked; air quality due to toxic (?) fumes and dust being sent east toward Eldorado during construction and beyond with our constant gentle breezes to frequent gusts - is that toxic to breathe? And dangerous to residents' health?; impact on water quality as all the water that AES has said they will need will go into the ground and the aquifer(s) that we need for our water now. How will any of these risks impact the value of our homes and safety? Do the voters agree that these

risks are acceptable when we still have no proof that PNM will buy the energy generated here and use it in the 3 areas (San Marcos, Rancho Viejo and Eldorado) plus other areas in Santa Fe ... or will it go to the highest bidder wherever they are but we assume all the risk?

It could end up being tragic if the “deciders” on this issue just accepted our comments and questions without doing their own research and answering our concerns before voting.

Thank you for “listening”.

Nancy E. Johnson

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