



Fw: Solar Yes - AES No

From Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>

Date Wed 6/18/2025 12:11 PM

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

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From: Jill Cowley <desertdance43@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 1:13:00 PM

To: Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>

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

Subject: Solar Yes - AES No

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Commissioner Hughes:

This is Jill Cowley, a 35-year resident of Eldorado.

With Respect -- I am trying to understand why Santa Fe County supports the AES Solar/Battery Storage project so close to county communities, given the substantial risks to people and environment that comes with it.

I attended the last hearing, have heard arguments on both sides, have read lay and professional articles and talked to many neighbors, and I am trying to understand why this project seems attractive to the County, when:

--at the last hearing, those opposed to the project outnumbered supporters 5 to 1;

--AES has a very poor history and reputation when it comes to battery storage fires, prefers to pay large fines rather than ensuring project safety, and are unwilling to consider other sites when BLM and the State Land Office have identified some 12 million acres in the state where projects like this can be safely built (see areas in blue on map attached below);

--when the likelihood of battery fires and PFAS chemical contamination of air, water and soil is high, and very real (e.g. in the last 5 years at three AES battery facilities in Arizona and Escondido, California); and when chemical contamination extends way past the site of the fire (e.g. Moss Landing, where contamination has been documented 7.5 miles from the site of the fire)

and

--the county has limited capacity for emergency response, and AES has to respond first, delaying any county action

So - again with respect -- can you help me understand why the county wants this project? I thought that public safety was the county's highest priority - ?

Please oppose this project!

Thank you

Jill Cowley

