



## Opposition to AES

From Milicent McFarland <milliemc@cybermesa.com>

Date Wed 6/18/2025 8:00 AM

To Dominic J. Sisneros <djsisneros@santafecountynm.gov>; Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>

Cc Millie McFarland <milliemc@cybermesa.com>

### Warning:

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to the battery storage development being proposed near ElDorado and Ranch Viejo. It is an industrial sized development being forced into an area that is residential. The area includes at least two schools, which will be very difficult to evacuate in an emergency as there are no busses kept at the schools. I speak from experience, as I have taught at both Turquoise Trail and ElDorado Community schools. Contacting parents takes time and many cannot leave their jobs on short notice. It would be a nightmare and lives would be threatened.

I wonder at some of the irregularities in the processing of the application including the "rezoning" or changing zoning to something more acceptable to be approved. Why was that done?

I wonder also at the rejection of the Planning Commission's hearing officer:

"Marilyn Hebert, the hearing officer assigned to Virginia-based AES Corp.'s application for a county permit, wrote in an order Monday, "The scale of the Project, over 200,000 panels and 570,000 lithium-ion batteries, together with the proximity to residential communities with homes as close [as] 500 feet from the Site boundary creates an unreasonable risk to the safety and welfare of the communities." (**Cormac Dodd, The Santa Fe New Mexican**

Mon, December 23, 2024 at 9:34 PM MST)

Why was her recommendation rejected?

As a gardener and outdoor enthusiast, I am also deeply worried about our peace and quiet and the dark night sky. I know both will be impacted by this commercial development. I also worry about fires.

This "Violation Tracker" clearly shows that AES has safety issues.

[violationtracker.goodjobsfirst.org](https://violationtracker.goodjobsfirst.org)



## Violation Tracker Current Parent Company Summary

Current Parent Company Name: AES Corp.  
Ownership Structure: publicly traded (ticker symbol AES)  
Headquartered in: Virginia  
Major Industry: utilities and power generation  
Specific Industry: utilities  
Penalty total since 2000: \$40,148,335  
Number of records: 56

Just scanning quickly down the page, I count at least FIVE violations from 2024, so problems are current.

It feels to me like this is being pushed through against very strong local opposition who have presented very detailed arguments against approval.

I urge the County to reconsider their stand and DENY AES' request for approval.

Please consider the homes and lives of your local residents who have voted for you and who live with you in our lovely county. Especially consider the safety of our children at Turquoise Trail and Eldorado Community schools. Their lives are far more precious than a foreign company's profit.

Sincerely,  
Milicent McFarland  
23 Estambre Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
505-577-7835