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**FW: AES Solar Project**

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**From** Gabriel C. Bustos <gcbustos@santafecountynm.gov>  
**Date** Wed 6/4/2025 2:51 PM  
**To** Dominic J. Sisneros <djsisneros@santafecountynm.gov>  
**Cc** Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>

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**From:** Michael Yearout <mike@mkyphotography.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 2:15 PM  
**To:** Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>  
**Cc:** Gabriel C. Bustos <gcbustos@santafecountynm.gov>  
**Subject:** AES Solar Project

Commissioner:

Following is a copy of the instructions to follow if the proposed guidelines if and when the AES BESS facility catches fire. I urge you to read it closely and share it with your fellow commissioners. This facility will be a disaster waiting to happen if you approve it. How many deaths will it take? How much destroyed property will it take?

This facility should not be located where it is proposed.

## 6.2 Incident Activities

**Incident Notification** – Upon notification of incident at, the Fire Department are recommended to respond with the appropriate emergency response.

**Prior and During Response** – The Fire Departments are recommended to review the Response Notebook for Emergency Response data pertinent to the BESS.

*If a horn/strobe of a Container is alarming, wait 6 hours before approaching, with AES / Rancho Viejo Personnel approval and escort, then evaluate the affected equipment using Gas Detectors and Thermal Imaging Cameras. At that point, if there are any elevated heat or gas measurements, wait another 4 hours.*

**Staging** – Upon arrival at the Rancho Viejo BESS site, The FD will stage at the main gate and await escort to the BESS. **DO NOT PROCEED WITHOUT ESCORT.**

Analyze the incident with AES personnel and identify the hazardous materials that could be present (See abnormal conditions in the hazard section).

- Are there any known personnel within the BESS area? Have all personnel been accounted for and documented?
- Identify from AES the nature of the incident. Seek firsthand discussion with persons identifying the incident if available.
- Has the Suppression System or Fire Detection System activated?
- Has visible smoke been detected?

- Is there Visible Fire?

Survey the hazard/incident and predict likely behavior of the hazardous materials that could be present during abnormal conditions (see section 5). Is there venting of off gases?

Are the utilities active?

Is there a potential for deflagration?

What are the Container temperatures and LEL measurements?

**\*\*INCOMPLETE UNTIL SITE OPERATION\*\* AGIC BESS Emergency Response & Pre-Incident Planning Rancho Viejo BESS First Responder Mitigation Guidelines Page 14 of 20 Rev. 0 10-10-2024**

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**Initial Entry – During an event (heat, smoke, or fire) there will be no entry, unless there is a rescue operation.** When approved for initial entry into the BESS; Utilize Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Gas detectors (i.e., Hydrogen, etc.), and Thermal Imaging Cameras; Ensure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn protects against thermal, electrical and HazMat hazards. **Unless Rescue Operations Are Intended, Containers Fires Will Normally Result in Defensive Suppression Activities with Exposure Protection Priorities.**

**NOTE: Stranded Energy Will Be Present, Even After BESS Power Has Been Disconnected “Batteries Are Still Energized.”**

**Battery Failure** – Impending Battery Failure Signs include bulging and overheating, white smoke/fog & hissing; **Immediately Evacuate BESS Area (Should maintain minimum of 150 ft distance from the effected BESS).**

**Suppression** – If Management and fire department(s) decide to fight the fire to enable rescue operations, utilize Water Fog Pattern @ 10-degree angle @ 5-ft minimum distance AND DO NOT physically come in contact with the Batteries and Battery Frames. **Unless rescue operations are intended, containers fires will normally result in defensive suppression activities with exposure protection priorities.**

**BESS Fire Protection System** – The Battery Storage Containers are provided with a Novec 1230 gaseous fire suppression system. Also provided is a direct injection system (DIS) fire suppressant at the individual battery module level.

**Fire Extinguishers** – Do NOT utilize Class D Fire Extinguishers.

**FD Salvage and Overhaul Operations – Do NOT perform Salvage Operations (Stranded Energy, continues to exist).**

I urge you to NOT approve this facility.

Michael K Yearout  
Santa Fe County  
87508