



Solar panels caused two fires in solar farm in Eagle Point, Oregon

From Kaye <kaye@coopmead.com>

Date Mon 3/31/2025 8:49 AM

To Alexandra Ladd <aladd@santafecountynm.gov>; Jordan A. Yutzy <jyutzy@santafecountynm.gov>; Dominic J. Sisneros <djsisneros@santafecountynm.gov>

Cc Hank Hughes <hhughes@santafecountynm.gov>; Justin S. Greene <jsgreene@santafecountynm.gov>; Camilla M. Bustamante <cbustamante@santafecountynm.gov>; Lisa Cacari Stone <cacaristone@santafecountynm.gov>; Adam Fulton Johnson <afjohnson@santafecountynm.gov>

WARNING:

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

Good morning:

Here is a video of the two fires that happened on a solar farm in Eagle Point, Oregon that resulted from overheating electronic solar panels that sparked two fires in the dry grass under the panels. It had 33,000 panels compared to the 205,000 panels that are proposed in the Rancho Viejo Solar Project. Then add in all the thousands of dry tumbleweeds that will litter these acres like we saw in the recent 60 mph winds throughout this area.

A disaster in the making to add the other electrical ignition sources of the substation (assume you saw the recent huge substation fire that shut down Heathrow airport) and 38 forty foot containers of explosive lithium-ion batteries (the most dangerous available) to this dry and wind-blown environment.

AES has said they will use NCA lithium-ion batteries. These are the most dangerous batteries available and go into thermal runaway more quickly than any other lithium-ion battery. Read every article out there after the Moss Landing disaster that clearly indicates the NMC batteries used there are very dangerous (it is part of the mass torte lawsuit against Vistra and LG Energy Solution, the battery manufacturer, for the use of these batteries) and basically almost all utility-scale facilities are moving to LFP Lithium-ion batteries, which can still go into thermal runaway but at a lower rate.

The first CUP that AES submitted proposed NMC batteries. So AES doesn't follow the industry lead that is overwhelming moving to the use of safer batteries but actually goes in reverse to use the more dangerous NCA batteries. Time to ask exactly what Utility-scale facilities use NCA batteries. AES wants those because they are more energy dense to generate more power and more money — that is the only reason to choose this battery. They tout that safety is their number 1 priority. The use of NCA batteries clearly proves this to be a lie.

Please do your own research to understand these basic issues which are central to the danger of this facility.

Thanks for viewing this.

And please add this to the packet of information for all Commissioners prior to the BCC hearing.

Thank you.

Kaye

Kaye Cooper-Mead

<https://youtu.be/o4NmCX2YC5Q?si=VrjXXcDw17I4DyHn>