

February 23, 2024

Hank Hughes  
Santa Fe County Commissioner  
P.O. Box 276  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Commissioner Hughes,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the application by AES Corp. to build a massive solar project with a lithium-ion battery storage facility in Santa Fe County. I live in Rancho Viejo, adjacent to the proposed site. My concern is the potential for a catastrophic failure and the subsequent danger it presents.

What could go wrong? Uncontrollable fire. Soil and air contamination. The devastating loss of property and worse, life. It's not speculation, it's already happened — we all know about the failures in Arizona, California and numerous other locations where lithium-ion storage facilities exploded due to “accidents.”

I'm not sure the County has the necessary laws and regulations in place to mitigate the threats. The sane thing to do, the prudent thing would be to slow down this process. This site, located near homes and schools, and among the dry, windy conditions that are endemic to New Mexico is too risky. Deny the proposal until more safeguards and more thorough emergency planning is in place. Better yet, deny this particular location.

To be clear, I am in favor of the transition away from fossil fuels to renewables. It's the location of this proposed facility that I find troubling. There are inherent dangers in this battery chemistry that no amount of spin or greenwashing can ignore. I'm sure other, more suitable locations can be found. Otherwise I'm afraid this development will not end well.

Respectfully,



Douglas Konen  
26 Panther Peak  
Santa Fe NM 87508

CC: Justin S. Greene  
Anna C. Hanson  
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