
From: Lisaida M. Archuleta <lmarchuleta@santafecountynm.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Kaye
Subject: RE: Partial response from AES regarding immense changes in Rancho Viejo Solar Project

Kaye,

Jose Larranaga is the Case Manager for AES Rancho Viejo Solar Project. Right now I know that we are looking into more studies (impact) so there is going to be a long process before it goes to Hearing Officer.

You can email Jose with any information you want.

Hearing officer is also for public. Then it goes to Planning commission, then to BCC. BCC could approve, denial or table it.

Lisaida

From: Kaye [mailto:kaye@coopmead.com]
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 2:46 PM
To: Lisaida M. Archuleta <lmarchuleta@santafecountynm.gov>
Subject: Re: Partial response from AES regarding immense changes in Rancho Viejo Solar Project

Warning:

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

Hi Lisaida:

Thanks for responding so quickly. So I assume the county has not replaced Jeremy Mier as the liaison to the Planning Commission? Gabe Bustos gave me your name to write to instead and just wanted to understand your connection to the Planning Commission as I don't know that much about the various County Departments.

So if I may ask what your connection is to the AES Rancho Viejo Solar Project? If I send you information on this do you then forward it to the SLDC Hearing Officer and to the Planning Commission? Who is the SLDC Hearing Officer?

So the AES Conditional Use Permit Application is reviewed first by the SLDC Hearing Officer and that person says it meets all the county's requirements or doesn't regarding a CUP Application and if so, then refers it to the Planning Commission for review which is when the first public hearing occurs? And if approved, we can then appeal? If we appeal, it goes on to the five county commissioners and a public hearing for approval or denial? If approved, we can then appeal and what happens at that time?

Do I have the above steps correct?

Thanks very much for your help.

Kaye

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 14, 2023, at 10:59 AM, Lisaida M. Archuleta <lmarchuleta@santafecountynm.gov> wrote:

Good Morning,

I am Growth management Deputy Director. Of Course you can continue emailing me information.

Respectfully,

Lisaida M. Archuleta

Growth Management

Deputy Director

505-986-6222

From: Kaye [<mailto:kaye@coopmead.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 10:38 AM

To: Lisaida M. Archuleta <lmarchuleta@santafecountynm.gov>

Subject: Partial response from AES regarding immense changes in Rancho Viejo Solar Project

Warning:

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

Hi Lisaida:

I understand you are the new liaison for the Planning Commission. I will be sending various emails concerning my correspondence with AES who is the developer that has filed a Conditional Use Permit Application with the county for the utility-scale Rancho Viejo Solar Facility. I would like the Planning commission and Hearing Officer to see these emails because they contain very important information about how AES continues to change the very basic and crucial details of the project that they did not include in their Conditional Use Permit Application for the project.

These include increasing the number of lithium-ion battery cells that will be used in the Battery Energy Storage System from 415,000 cells to an astonishing 1,043,280 battery cells. It takes one degraded battery cell to start a thermal runaway fire and potential explosion so this incredible increase creates a much greater risk of fire.

These BESS fires are happening with frightening regularity as more solar facilities use them and there were three new fires in New York in the last two months alone in much smaller BESS systems (4 to 8 MW systems compared to the 48 MW BESS system AES wants to do here). After the last three BESS fires in NY and now 14 deaths there this year from lithium-ion

battery fires from e-bikes, the Governor of NY just called for a fire safety council to investigate these systems.

AES also just doubled the battery container size from 69 20' containers to 69 40' containers to load even more batteries on site.

More details of the changes AES made are in the attached and were only released to us because I asked for them on July 9th. It is very important that the Planning Commission take a look at all of these details for this facility.

Thank you for passing on this information to the Commission.

Sincerely,

Kaye Cooper-Mead

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kaye <kaye@coopmead.com>
Date: August 10, 2023 at 12:25:21 PM MDT
To: josearra@santafecountynm.gov
Cc: hhughes@santafecountynm.gov, athamilton@santafecountynm.gov,
ahansen@santafecountynm.gov, jsgreene@santafecountynm.gov,
cbustamante@santafecountynm.gov, jmier@santafecountynm.gov
Subject: Partial response from AES regarding immense changes in Rancho Viejo Solar Project

To: The Sustainable Land Development Code(SLDC) Hearing Officer, the Santa Fe County Planning Commission and the Santa Fe County Commissioners

Dear Jose:

Attached please find my letter concerning the changes that have been made by AES in the Rancho Viejo Solar Project

