

Dear Lisaida Archuleta,

I am writing from my home in Santa Fe County because I am increasingly concerned about the safety, the water use and the environmental dangers posed by the AES battery storage project. The more I read, the more I worry.

Specifically, I doubt that the County has the expertise to evaluate this utility-scale project and its dangers to nearby residential areas. My house is about 5 miles from the site and in a direct line east of any potential toxic fumes or fires that could be released in an accident. What if a fire should happen on a windy day? How will the County respond with fire suppression and/or evacuation plans? Over the 35 year lifespan of the project, how many fires can be expected to occur? Even one is too many as far as I am concerned. Should a toxic event reach my neighborhood, I might never be able to return to my home (I am chemically sensitive)>

According to information on the CleanEnergyCoalitionSFC.org website, a six-year study has concluded that the internal battery container fire detection and suppression systems in this type of project fail more than 25% of the time.

There is also the water use issue. I am rationing the water to my precious trees and limiting my showers, but this AES permit application requests up to 1,000,000 gallons of water per year of operation. Where will all this water come from? And will it be poisoned by whatever it is used for? We already have a situation in the County of industrial toxins getting into the groundwater, with apparently no recourse or remediation.

It is better to be safe than sorry, as any parent will tell you.

Thank-you for your attention to this issue.

Dara Mark
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