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ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S CORRESPONDENCE LETTER TO HECATE GRID

*Today, I was browsing the HECATEGRID.com website for about the 20th time since they began their assault on our town and our residents 2 years ago.*

*Yep, it's been two years. But, time flies when you're having fun, right?*

*As I read through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) under the "Energy Storage" tab, I was reading it through a brand new pair of "Moss Landing goggles".*

*And I was angry.*

*Really angry.*

*We should ALL be angry after Moss Landing's BESS fire!*

*Because it has been awhile since I pestered Hecate with one of my emails, I decided I would gift them with another.*

*I'm sure it's purely annoying for them, but it's purely therapeutic for me.*

*Please read my latest "love-letter" to the developer who believes that Acton is dispensable.*

*Because I know you all love them, too, I signed it from all of us.*

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Hello Hecate,

After reading your website, I was wondering the following:

Are you planning on updating your FAQs on your website? Especially now that the Moss Landing Vistra BESS failure incident has proven that:

- 1) First responders must keep their distance to avoid injury during possible deflagration events and also to avoid exposure to toxic gases, particulate and PFAS, all while "letting it burn" since there is no effective way to extinguish lithium-ion or LFP battery fires.
- 2) There is indeed evidence of toxic fumes being released and spreading beyond site boundaries, as evidenced by all of the people who were sickened by the exposure to the toxic gases, heavy metals and particulate in the path of the Moss Landing plume.
- 3) Battery fires do indeed pollute the air and soil, as proven by the Elkhorn Slough following the Vistra incident, where heavy metals such as lithium, manganese, cobalt and nickel can ultimately make its way into groundwater. Other contamination testing in the widespread area is ongoing. But, since you have shrewdly added the words "during normal operations" on your webpage, I doubt you will feel pressed to write the truth – even though the aftermath of Moss Landing will tell the public that which you refuse to.

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4) Siting Regulations are inconsistent amongst local governments and in many cases non-existent.

Few of these local governments have any idea what they are really approving other than its "green energy" so therefore it must be "good." And, now that the public is becoming more aware of the risks associated with Lithium-ion battery technologies, many projects are facing tremendous community opposition... some even winding up in court. Many of these projects facing opposition are pulling out of local approval processes and scurrying off to the CEC Opt-In fast-tracked approval program created through AB205. Newly introduced Assembly Bill 303, if passed, will finally impose safety and siting regulations which protect communities – but this regulation is long overdue.

Who is really holding back California from achieving its ambitious Net Zero Carbon goals?

You are. The Energy Industry itself.

Your refusal to pivot away from fire-prone and toxic Lithium-ion and LFP and instead utilize safe Long Duration Energy Storage batteries such as Iron Flow will cost you years being tied in project approval battles... and apparently also litigation.

These batteries are creating a future environmental crisis, not just when they fail, but even upon decommissioning because of their toxicity.

If you want to develop needed battery storage to compliment renewable generation, then change your battery chemistry.

Otherwise you will be fighting opposition in local AHJ processes, the CEC Opt-in program... or in court... on every Lithium-based battery storage project you propose near a community.

And I don't think your investors are going to tolerate that much longer.

A wise man once said, "If your project ends up in court – then you have failed your investors."

Ruthie Brock

Acton Takes Action Community Task Force and the residents of Acton, CA