

MAY 25, 2024 AT 12:40 PM PDT

Page 01

ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE WITH LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT REGARDING ACTON'S ONGOING CONCERNS ABOUTH THE HECATE GRID HUMIDOR BESS PROJECT

FROM: Ruth Brock <actontakesaction@att.net>
TO: Chief Anthony Marrone <Anthony.Marrone@fire.lacounty.gov>, Albert Yanagisawa <albert.yanagisawa@fire.lacounty.gov>
CC: Barger, Kathryn <Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov>
Katherine Lample <klample@planning.lacounty.gov>, Mark Herwick <mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov>, Amy Bodek <abodek@planning.lacounty.gov>, David DeGrazia <DDegrazia@planning.lacounty.gov>, Susan Tae <stae@planning.lacounty.gov>, Congressman Mike Garcia <ca27mgima@mail.house.gov>, Charles Bostwick <cbostwick@bos.lacounty.gov>, Acton Town Council <atc@actontowncouncil.org>, Jacqueline Owens <jacqueline.owens@mail.house.gov>, carlo.basail@asm.ca.gov <carlo.basail@asm.ca.gov>

SUBJECT: Humidor BESS Concerns

LA County Fire Chief Marrone,
Deputy Chief Yanagisawa,

Hello Chiefs,

I'm sure you are weary of hearing from me but while our community still has the even the smallest chance of potentially influencing the decisions of the Humidor BESS approval, I must persist.

I would like to share a video from a House subcommittee hearing as well as a news article and video on the recent Otay Mesa, CA Gateway BESS fire (and reigniting). I'm sharing these because we know your future decisions and the subsequent actions that are taken with the Humidor BESS Fire approval will be extremely important to the residents of Acton.

We all are painfully aware that lithium-based batteries have inherent risk of failure which includes fire, thermal runaway, deflagration and toxic off-gassing. This risk directly affects first responders as well as nearby residents. Your fire personnel thankfully have BAs and full PPE, but the Acton residents and their equine and livestock sadly do not.

While the term "failing safe" may be considered a successful incident in the eyes of the Energy Industry or BESS facility owner where fire damage to their facility is kept to a minimum and there is no loss of life or severe injuries, there is still a risk of toxic gas exposure to residents and animals that is impossible to completely mitigate.

Risk-prone Lithium-based battery technology is not the only choice for BESS utility scale application. There are existing technologies that have no fire risk and no toxicity, such as Metal (nickel) Hydrogen,

ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE WITH LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT REGARDING ACTON'S ONGOING CONCERNS ABOUT THE HECATE GRID HUMIDOR BESS PROJECT

Iron Air, Iron Flow. Why is no one asking the BESS developers to make more safe choices? Instead these developers are allowed to put performance and profits ahead of the people you took an oath to protect.

There is no operational reason why a transmission BESS must be located in close proximity to a substation other than the convenience and cost savings for them on their interconnecting transmission line. Again, they put profits before people. If their claims of necessity were true, then why is battery storage often integrated with renewable generation facilities?

NFPA will be developing new code standards for batteries with NFPA 800 which will support the existing NFPA 855. This will provide uniform minimum requirements for fire, electrical, life safety, and property protection related to battery technologies. While NFPA does not specifically mention "Lithium-ion" or "lithium-based" batteries, these are really the only chemistry being used that carry the risks for which their code standards will need to provide guidance. Why do we not demand that currently available, alternative fire-safe technologies be used? These lithium-based batteries are not the only answer to battery storage!

There is no way to totally mitigate the risks to our residents with the proposed location of this Humidor BESS and their use of lithium-based batteries, whether LNMC or LiFePO₄. But in addition to risks for our residents, this project location also poses risk to our power grid!

The Humidor (and potential Flea Flicker also slated to be developed by Hecate) is located below and slightly east of the 500kV transmission lines which connect to the Vincent. These high voltage lines are the southern terminus of the critical Pacific AC Intertie. Any BESS failure event at the Humidor (or Flea Flicker) that produces smoke can cause the insulators on the transmission lines to melt which in turn will cause the lines to arc, flashover and short-circuit. This short-circuiting event can travel beyond the Vincent and effect the greater Los Angeles area and further south with potential to also effect the grid in other western states.

Two Large System Operators who are considered transmission experts with 35 and 40 years experience in their field came forward with these concerns. They estimate this could result in outages that may take days to weeks and over a billion dollars to get back online. Their concerns are echoed by an environmental engineer who also has 40 years experience and who has given expert witness at every large transmission project in the state of California over the past 20 years.

Their three professional opinions with over 100 years combined experience carry weight, do they not?

If you would like to sit down and speak with these transmission experts, it can be arranged.

We have already had the opportunity to convey this information to Congressman Garcia and he took these concerns to a Washington DC, House Homeland Security sub-committee hearing for Science, Space and Technology — on Feb. 29th. The hearing's focus was on "*Examining the Risks — The*

ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE WITH LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT REGARDING ACTON'S ONGOING CONCERNS ABOUTH THE HECATE GRID HUMIDOR BESS PROJECT

Dangers of EV Fire for First Responders". Rep. Garcia was able to pivot the focus from EVs to BESS in his questions to San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey, mentioning Acton and Agua Dulce in the process. We are extremely grateful for his efforts on our behalf and his ongoing support.

The attached videos and article are below.

Thank you for your time.

Ruthie Brock

On behalf of the residents of Acton

1) Congressman Garcia is introduced a time marker 44:55.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8l8AsN5suA&t=2693s>

2) Gateway BESS fire and reignition in Otay Mesa CA

<https://fox5sandiego.com/video/fire-at-battery-storage-facility-reignites-in-otaymesa/9704259>

3) Aerial map photo showing 500 kV transmission lines in proximity to proposed Humidor BESS location (photo attached next page)

ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE WITH LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT REGARDING ACTON'S ONGOING CONCERNS ABOUT THE HECATE GRID HUMIDOR BESS PROJECT

