

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	263647
Document Title:	AR Lubarsky Comments - Docket Number 24-OPT-02
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	AR Lubarsky
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	6/1/2025 5:48:32 PM
Docketed Date:	6/2/2025

Comment Received From: AR Lubarsky
Submitted On: 6/1/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Docket Number 24-OPT-02

Engie and Compass Energy have asserted that their technology poses a minimal risk of causing a fire due to its low likelihood of ignition. However, we strongly challenge this assertion. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) database documents multiple instances of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) failures, including a notable event in Queensland, Australia in 2023, which contradict such claims of safety. Even setting aside the potential for the BESS itself to ignite a fire, the fact remains that the proposed site is officially designated as a high fire risk area - an area that has already experienced fire events in the past. In such an environment, any wildfire or brush fire occurring in proximity to the site places the BESS facility at significant risk of ignition, regardless of whether it is the source. Should a fire occur near the facility, the site's vulnerability could result in a dual hazard: a wildfire combined with an electrical fire. This scenario poses extreme risk to public safety, especially considering that the area has only one road in and one road out - creating serious evacuation and emergency response challenges. On May 29th, 2025, multiple fire authorities publicly testified before the Commission, clearly stating that local firefighting resources are not equipped to contain a complex fire event of this nature quickly or safely. Their concern is not hypothetical—it is a foreseeable reality if this project proceeds at the proposed site. Our community cannot afford the consequences of simultaneously battling a wildfire and an electrical fire. Approving this location would be not only irresponsible, but potentially catastrophic.

Main Points:

- We still maintain that we as the community do NOT have confidence in the safety of this technology
- HOWEVER — even if there was NO possibility of this technology being the SOURCE of a fire,

that does NOT change the fact that this technology is highly susceptible to catching fire and

experiencing explosive reactions during a wildfire event

- We already have high fire risk in this area
- We have already experienced wildfires in this area
- 2 burning fires simultaneously of wildfire and electric are extremely dangerous