

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	25-OPT-02
Project Title:	Prairie Song Reliability Project
TN #:	265010
Document Title:	(1-15) Ruthie Brock Comments - Acton Residents Petition of Protest -Prairie Song Reliability Project
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Ruthie Brock
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	7/24/2025 7:03:00 PM
Docketed Date:	7/25/2025

Comment Received From: Ruthie Brock
Submitted On: 7/24/2025
Docket Number: 25-OPT-02

Acton Residents Petition of Protest -Prairie Song Reliability Project

Please accept this as upload #1 of 15

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

July 24, 2025

California Energy Commission
David Hochschild, Chair
Lisa Worrall, Project Manager

Re: Prairie Song Reliability Project
Docket Log 25-OPT-02

Dear Chair Hochschild and Ms. Worrall,

The community of Acton is in Unincorporated North Los Angeles County. In 2023 our community gathered signatures on a "Petition of Protest" over a six week period from June 1 through July 15th in opposition to several proposed battery energy storage facilities in our small, rural community. One of these proposed projects was the 1,150 MW/9,200 MWh Avantus Angeleno BESS, now known as the Prairie Song Reliability Project, which has filed application in the CEC Opt-In Program.

Our original Petition of Protest in 2023 cited the Vistra Moss Landing incident from 2021. Since then, there was an additional more catastrophic incident at Vistra on Jan 16 2025 which shattered all prior safety claims made by the developer to the County of Monterey. At the time this Vistra facility was built, it met all current fire codes and safety regulations and utilized Lithium-Ion Nickel-Manganese-Cobalt (NMC) UL9540 certified batteries --- a facility which is now described as an "outdated design and utilizing old technology".

The Prairie Song BESS will utilize Lithium-Iron-Phosphate (LFP) batteries which absolutely present fire, explosion and toxicity risk to our residents. Although slightly more heat stable than their predecessor of Lithium-Ion NMC batteries, the only battery fire to date that has resulted in death and severe injury was at an LFP battery facility in Beijing. While responding to this fire, two firefighters were killed, one more severely mutilated and a power station staff member was still unaccounted for a month after the incident, per CTIF (International Association of Firefighters) report on the event.

Acton is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The 7,500 residents of Acton should not be put in a position to potentially be the next Moss Landing. There are safe locations for mammoth projects such as the 1,150 MW/9,200 MWh Prairie Song which are away from residents and outside of designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. These locations have access to existing transmission infrastructure, making the project developer's claim of necessity to be near the Vincent Substation for interconnection an invalid argument. Project Interconnection convenience should never outweigh public safety.

Please accept our 2023 Petition of Protest and 1,892 signatures in opposition to the Avantus Angeleno BESS (now known as the Prairie Song Reliability Project) and all future proposed BESS projects in the community of Acton due to the known and proven risks they pose to our residents.

Thank you,
Ruthie Brock
Acton Takes Action Community Task Force
Acton, CA

1. <https://ctif.org/news/accident-analysis-beijing-lithium-battery-explosion-which-killed-two-firefighters>