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Comments by Alexandra Newman

Comments in opposition by Alexandra Newman.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Good afternoon. My name is Alexandra Newman, and I live at 32418 Angeles Forest Hwy here in Acton. I'm here to urge you to **reject the Prairie Song Reliability Project.**

First and foremost, it's hard to comprehend how and why the Prairie Song—or any other BESS project, for that matter— can even be considered for Acton, which is already **designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone with a wildfire risk higher than 97% of U.S. communities.** Actonites already struggle with escalating fire insurance premiums and/or outright cancellations, and already endure frequent power shut-offs to help prevent wildfire ignition. Locating a massive lithium-ion battery facility with the well-documented and very real potential for explosions igniting long-duration fires that widely release toxic gases, along with the frightening possibility of thermal runaway, exponentially adds to the ever-present fire danger. Installing a large-scale BESS here adds a new, unpredictable fire risk that could be disastrous, possibly resulting in catastrophic consequences for homes, ranches, wildlife and its habitat, sensitive water and other natural resources, as well as to our valued and desirable open space. Another important factor unique to this location is that most of Acton is zoned A1 and A2, allowing many of its residents to keep multiple horses and other livestock (as well as being home to several animal rescues/shelters), all of which would face major evacuation challenges should a fire occur.

Adding insult to the very real potential for injury, the proposed industrial-scale facility **offers no direct benefits to Acton residents.** The electricity stored and discharged would serve distant load centers, but with all **risks and impacts falling on—and directly threatening-- our community and those communities directly surrounding us.** I think it's fair to surmise that Acton is targeted for Prairie Song and other BESS projects because of its proximity to transmission lines, greatly lessening the developer's infrastructure costs/construction investment, and thereby greatly increasing their profit. Developers jumping on the (supposedly) "green" bandwagon for profit should not trump the safety, well-being and quality of life of those residing where they will be located.

Allowing this project to proceed exposes our community to potentially catastrophic danger, and undermines our property values and quality of life. Facilities such as these should be located in remote areas where fire risk, population density, and community impact are negligible. I respectfully ask

that the Commission hear Acton's united voice and **prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our residents over developer profits... please** reject the Prairie Song project anywhere in Acton.

Thank you.

Alexandra Newman
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2/24/26