

DOCKETED

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Comments from Resident Within One-Mile Impact Radius – RB Inyokern Data Center

I am submitting early input regarding the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center (Docket 26-SPPE-01) as a long-term resident living within approximately one mile of the proposed project site at U.S. 395 and State Route 178.

I understand that formal e-commenting has not yet opened, but I want to ensure my concerns are on the record as staff begins evaluating the Small Power Plant Exemption application. I plan to submit formal comments when the docket opens, and I respectfully request notification when that occurs.

My household includes a pregnant woman currently in her second trimester, an elderly woman with chronic health conditions, and myself – a disabled adult. We are exactly the kind of vulnerable population that CEQA analysis is designed to consider when evaluating air quality, noise, and cumulative environmental impact.

My specific concerns include the following:

1. Diesel Generator Emissions and Testing Schedule

The forty 3-MW diesel generators, even with Tier 4 Final controls (SCR, DPF, DEF), will emit during routine testing and operation. I request that the application disclose:

– Expected annual testing hours per generator

– Projected NO_x, particulate matter, and diesel exhaust emissions on testing days

– Notification protocols for nearby residents prior to testing events

– Conditions limiting simultaneous operation of multiple generators during testing

2. Air Quality Baseline Monitoring

I request that pre-construction air quality monitoring at residential receptors within a one-mile radius be a condition of any exemption granted. Without baseline data, future health or air quality impacts cannot be meaningfully evaluated.

3. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin Status

The IWV basin is in active adjudication and groundwater overdraft. While the project's projected 37–49 acre-feet per year may appear small relative to total

basin demand, the basin cannot sustainably absorb additional pumping. I request confirmation that the project's water source has been formally evaluated and allocated by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority before the SPPE is granted.

4. Cumulative Impact Analysis

The proposed site is in close proximity to the planned tribal casino development and the existing Inyokern Airport District. CEQA requires evaluation of cumulative impacts, not just project-specific impacts. I request that the analysis address combined air quality, water demand, traffic, and light pollution from all foreseeable development in this corridor.

5. Light Pollution and Dark Skies

Inyokern is an unincorporated rural area whose character includes minimal artificial light. A 24/7 industrial facility with security lighting will measurably affect this. I request that the application include light pollution modeling and that dark-sky compliant lighting be required as a condition of approval.

6. Wind Direction and Receptor Modeling

The Indian Wells Valley has prevailing winds from the west and southwest, but reverses during certain summer afternoon conditions. Air dispersion modeling should reflect both prevailing and reversal patterns, and should specifically evaluate impacts on residential receptors southeast of the site, where my home is located.

I am not opposed to economic development in Eastern Kern County. The recent Searles Valley Minerals layoffs are real, and our region needs stable employment. However, "economic development" cannot be allowed to mean accepting environmental burdens without rigorous review of impacts on the residents who actually live here.

Please add me to the notification list for this docket and confirm receipt of this comment.