

| <b>DOCKETED</b>         |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Docket Number:</b>   | 26-OPT-02                                                                                        |
| <b>Project Title:</b>   | Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System                                                            |
| <b>TN #:</b>            | 271509                                                                                           |
| <b>Document Title:</b>  | Becky Steinbruner Comments - Additional Comment on UL9540A Test Result Confidentiality Challenge |
| <b>Description:</b>     | N/A                                                                                              |
| <b>Filer:</b>           | System                                                                                           |
| <b>Organization:</b>    | Becky Steinbruner                                                                                |
| <b>Submitter Role:</b>  | Public                                                                                           |
| <b>Submission Date:</b> | 7/16/2026 11:41:56 PM                                                                            |
| <b>Docketed Date:</b>   | 7/17/2026                                                                                        |

*Comment Received From: Becky Steinbruner*

*Submitted On: 7/16/2026*

*Docket Number: 26-OPT-02*

## **Additional Comment on UL9540A Test Result Confidentiality Challenge**

Dear Chief Counsel Mr. Ranchod,

I would like to include additional points to my Petition to Inspect and Copy Appendix 3.16-A submitted earlier today, and to request that the Commission reconsider the issuance of confidential status for any and all Seahawk BESS UL 9540A Test Results data.

3) The California Energy Commission has already set a precedent for posting UL 9540A Test Results to the publicly-accessible docket in the instance of the Prairie Song BESS Opt-In application; decision-making on UL 9540A Test Results data should be consistent in order to grant the same level of transparency to all affected communities. Here is a link to the UL9540A Test Results that is publicly available from the Prairie Song BESS Project application Docket:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=266065&DocumentContentId=103081> Nothing is redacted in the report, other than the address/contact information in the footer. Why would the Commission choose to sequester crucial public safety data for one project when it has made such data publicly available to another community, an issue that would cloud the integrity and equality of the Commission's decision-making.

Therefore, I hereby request that your Counsel remove the determination of confidentiality for the Seahawk BESS Project UL9540A Test Results because the Commission has already set the precedent to make such data transparent and accessible to the public and first responders.

4) The Commission's decision to withhold the crucial UL 9540A test result data is inconsistent with the California GO-BIZ Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Model Ordinance.

<https://business.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/BESS-Model-Ordinance-Guide-10.22.25-Draft.pdf>

That document references the importance of UL9540A (page 49):

UL 9540A

UL 9540A (Test Method for Evaluating Thermal Runaway Fire Propagation in Battery Energy Storage Systems) is a testing method used to evaluate how an energy storage system reacts to thermal runaway. In order to be listed in accordance with UL 9540, a BESS must be listed and tested in accordance with UL 9540A.

The UL 9540A test assesses:

1. Thermal runaway characteristics of the cell, and the composition and flammability of the gases in a cell-level test
2. The likelihood of fire spread between modules, the unit's heat and gas release

rates, and the potential for deflagration or re-ignition in a unit level test

3. The tendency of propagation, and the heat and gas release rate of the module in a module-level test

4. The effectiveness of the fire protection system, as well as the heat and gas release rate of the system in an installation-level test.

There are no SDA data sheets submitted for the Seahawk BESS project that could otherwise inform and guide the local fire agency responders in emergency planning and public safety matters.

5) The Approval of Confidential Status on Seahawk's UL 9540A Test Results will also hold for other future critical test data without the further need for the applicant to apply, such as Large-Scale Fire Testing. Such critical public safety data should not be hidden from the public, especially in an area so near the catastrophic 2025 Vistra BESS Fire at Moss Landing.

The California GO-BIZ Clean Energy Permitting Play Book describes on page 31 the importance of the Large Scale Testing under UL 9540A protocol.

Large-Scale Fire Testing Commentary:

Large-scale fire testing (LSFT) is conducted to assess how materials, systems, and entire assemblies behave under realistic fire conditions. By understanding the potential fire behavior of a battery system through LSFT, both code officials and fire departments can make more informed decisions about site approvals, safety infrastructure, and fire prevention and mitigation strategies. For example, LSFT results can help confirm the safety of the separation spacing between BESS units based on fire propagation behavior demonstrated in a LSFT.

LSFT can also help inform emergency response planning, such as how to ventilate enclosures, the protective gear that may be needed, and the fire suppression strategies that are most effective for specific battery chemistries and configurations. Additional detail on emergency response planning is included in the "Emergency Response Plan" section.

LSFT requires finalization of project design and product, which as discussed above, is not common at the time of a use permit application. However, feedback from LPAs, fire safety experts, and developers suggested it is appropriate for LPAs to require large-scale fire testing (LSFT) compliant with CFC and local fire code as a condition of approval for a use permit, with the actual LSFT to be conducted prior

to the issuance of a construction permit.

Therefore, I respectfully request Chief Counsel to approve my Petition for Inspecting and Copying the Seahawk BESS Project UL 9540A Test Results and to remove the confidential status the Executive Officer granted on July 2, 2026.

I will provide service of this amendment to counsel for the applicant in compliance with Title 20 Section 2506 (b)(2) and submit a written request for written approval of release of the record/

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Steinbruner  
3441 Redwood Drive  
Aptos, CA 95003  
831-685-2915