

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	08-AFC-08A
Project Title:	Hydrogen Energy Center Application for Certification Amendment
TN #:	206913
Document Title:	Trudy Douglass Comments: Please say "NO" to HECA
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Trudy Douglass
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	12/9/2015 7:33:46 PM
Docketed Date:	12/10/2015

Comment Received From: trudy douglass

Submitted On: 12/9/2015

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Please say "NO" to HECA

This month two co-generation plants in Kern County went out of business. (Rio Bravo Poso and Rio Bravo Jasmin) They were both using a mixture of coal and coke. If these plants, that had no extensive environmental restrictions, could not make a profit, how can HECA? The HECA plant will be using 2/3^{â€™}s of the power it generates for its own use in gasification and sequestration.

Mr. Croyle of SCS is telling us that he has solved all of the problems the chemical plant had. They will happily sequester CO₂ without compensation from an outside party. Therefore no contract will be needed. He also apologized for misspeaking when he said that non-farming chemicals will be produced. Therefore no change in Kern County permits will be needed.

I have not yet heard Mr. Croyle^{â€™}s solutions to other HECA problems. What will happen to the tons of waste the plant will produce daily? What manufacturing techniques for minimizing water use will be included? How will particulates emitted by loading and unloading coal be contained? Workers in HECA will carry breathing masks, how will residents and workers outside the fence be protected from the chemical accidents? What route will be used to protect schools when transporting coal and chemicals?

If HECA gets built I foresee that after the management demonstrates the ability to sequester CO₂ it will stop doing so because of the cost. What will our air be like then? To increase profits they will also be ^{â€™}forced^{â€™} to sell chemicals not used in farming. Who will be the watchman for this enterprise? The people of Kern County do not deserve the punishment to air, water and land HECA will inflict.