

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	260358
Document Title:	Jenny Johnson Comments - What Guarantees Will CA Provide If CEC Approves
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Jenny Johnson
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	12/1/2024 10:03:02 AM
Docketed Date:	12/2/2024

*Comment Received From: Jenny Johnson
Submitted On: 12/1/2024
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05*

What Guarantees Will CA Provide If CEC Approves

Aside from concerns already expressed in previous comments about the safety and welfare of the surrounding community in rural Solano and Vacaville, I would like to understand what the State of California has done to prepare for, or will do, in the event of a thermal runaway event at the Corby site.

When BESS fires have occurred in various parts of the state and across the country, local officials have ordered shelter in place, shut down roadways, and ordered businesses and schools closed. Yet NextEra and their energy development peers all state a BESS fire doesn't emit anything worse than a typical housefire. Are the public officials just overreacting in these communities? Additionally, when questioned about BESS lithium-ion safety, we hear from NextEra, Ampyr, and their energy development special interest consultants those fires occurred because of poor construction, older technology, or out of date design. Corby would, at some point, be "older technology" or "out of date" design given the speed at which engineering, planning, and technology changes. What will the state do to ensure NextEra stays current?

Lastly, if the CEC approves the Corby application, what will you do to work with the Insurance Commissioner and the Department of Insurance to guarantee homeowners, property owners, and business in rural Solano and its cities keep their current insurance in effect. It's well documented the California property insurance market is one of the most challenging in the country. Leading carriers have pulled up stakes or simply stopped writing policies in the state due to the Insurance Commissioner's decisions. Prices have gone up and choice has gone down. A fire at a BESS site on the edge of a community in excess of 100K people may put its residents in the hopeless situation of being non-renewed, non-insurable, while also tanking their home values. This is also an area with a large population of seniors and both children and adults with special physical and mental needs.

Frankly, elected leaders may have passed provisions to stimulate energy production and build energy resilience, and placed decision making for them (and us the electorate) in your hands, but approvals will not address the real concerns of real people living in the proposed Corby BESS site area. In the end, if you would not want a site like this in your "backyard," please don't condemn Solano County to have one in theirs.

Thank you.