

DOCKETED

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Oppose HECA - Seismic, Air Quality, Water Use

Please see attached document.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Hydrogen Energy California (HECA)
California Energy Commission
Address
Date:
Attn: Roger Somebody

Transmitted via ----

Dear Mr. Mr

This letter is to oppose the placement/location of the proposed HECA project for numerous reasons. After studying the documentation for the project, there are numerous flaws in the logic for the siting of this project, which under the California Environmental Quality Act, is cause for refusal by a lead agency to permit.

My understanding from reviewing the PSA/DEIS is that much information is still missing and has been requested by staff from the applicant. I am not clear how the document is being circulated for public review and comment with so many incomplete sections and missing information thus rendering the application technically incomplete!

When considering the health, safety and welfare of the community that will be affected by the placement of the project, please imagine your eyes are burning, red and watering. Your throat is scratchy and your lungs are congested and breathing is difficult. No, this is not a chemical "warfare" attack; rather it is a corporate chemical attack. Research indicates the significant health affects of highly contaminated and toxic air, which includes but are not limited to, lung disease, lung cancer, stroke, heart attack, numerous cancers (bladder cancer is directly correlated to diesel particulate-Harvard University Study 2006) and finally death, especially in days of extreme heat.

In this case two major components of life, necessary for human habitation on the planet will be effected detrimentally, air and water.

Seismic Issues

Additionally, we have the unknown impacts that will be induced by the introduction of massive amounts of carbon dioxide on a daily basis known as the sequestration process and the resulting seismic movement from such large, continuous quantities of high pressure gas injection interspersed with water injection.

Not only are the applicants proposing to place the "demonstration" project in one of the most polluted air basins in the world, they are now, after change of ownership, proposing to ship in coal and "pet-coke" [refinery by-product] to burn and pump the captured amount of carbon dioxide into the ground, at a profit, as Occidental Petroleum (OXY) will buy this by-product and use it in the Elk Hills fields to loosen deeply buried heavy crude oil. They already use this process here and in other areas of the United States. It is not an un-proven technology.

OXY and other oil companies have used various and sundry methods for reviving “almost dry” fields for years. This process, under any name, injects a fluid or gas at high pressure into the ground at various depths, depending on the fields themselves. We know this system works. We don’t know how well or efficiently because this information is considered proprietary by the companies.

Furthermore, the Executive Summary on page 12 states in part, “ while OEHI has stated it can use as much carbon dioxide as HECA can produce, the stated life span of the OEHI operation (20 years) is shorter than the length of time HECA proposes to operate (25 years).” What happens to 5 years worth of Co2 that is not captured and bought by OXY?

If I understand the proposal, the government is going to fund private investment to import coal(a known carcinogen on diesel powered trains) and pet coke (a dirty by-product from an oil refinery), burn them in a gasification system, capturing the Co2 before most of it can escape (90% capture) in a highly polluted air district, sell the Co2 to a private company to inject into the ground in an seismically active region adjacent to the San Andreas Fault and in a sequential pattern running eastward towards the White Wolf Fault, along the southern perimeter of the San Joaquin Valley, otherwise known as the bowl that holds the air pollution surrounded my mountains on 3 sides. All this to make fertilizer, some electricity that the plant itself may or may not need, given it’s day to day production, and the plant may even need to import electricity to run it’s operations.

From page 1902, “ In a semi-cumulative review of OXY’s current sequestration practices, they state that the Co2 sequestration would be less than the quantities of water, steam and gas currently injected to increase oil production in the Elk Hills fields.

Fluid injection is known to increase levels of small scale seismicity at other locations in the United States (thus proving this is not a true demonstration project – comment mine), although none have been documented at Elk Hills.”

Where is the documentation to either prove or disprove this statement? The data is available, as earthquakes have been tracked with better accuracy since the Northridge Earthquake in 1994.