Submission - EDP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Merino Solar Photovoltaic Energy Generation Facility and Large Batteries

SSD 59155459

OBJECTION

I live at Gundary and will be adversely affected by the EDP Merino proposal and therefore OBJECT.

There are a number of matters that I am concerned about having an industrial facility in our neighbourhood. Matters such as:

- real property devaluation
- destruction of the rural landscape, scenic quality and landscape character
- grass fires
- panel/inverter/transformer/lithium battery fires
- lack of security deposit to cover the future cost of decommissioning and remediation

My submission focus is the concern regarding the potential and "likely" contamination and pollution of soil, water and air posing a risk to public health.

I am attaching information for your consideration as there seems to be in some circles a resistance to accepting the research and data as it relates to contamination and pollution.

Solar Photovoltaic Energy Generation Facilities and Large Batteries have a cocktail of dangerous chemicals, which are released into the surrounding environment when panels are broken during transport, installation, broken by hail and/or strong winds, panel fires and leaching and when batteries catch fire.

Panel Composition - Solar Panels and their assessment in USA.

Using a base of 100-megawatt solar facilities — one made entirely of monocrystalline panels and the other made entirely of thin-film panels. Both types are common in large-scale development, but they're built differently and contain different materials.

Monocrystalline Panels (entire 100 MW facility; ~275,000 panels)
Aluminum – 68,750,000 grams → 75.78 tons
Copper – 6,875,000 grams → 7.58 tons
Silver – 77,000 grams → 0.08 tons
Lead – 1,925,000 grams → 2.12 tons
Nickel – 137,500 grams → 0.15 tons
Tin – 275,000 grams → 0.30 tons
Zinc – 687,500 grams → 0.76 tons
Data for cadmium, tellurium, selenium, gallium, and indium was not readily available for this panel type.

Thin-Film Panels (entire 100 MW facility; ~275,000 panels)
Aluminum – 41,250,000 grams → 45.47 tons
Copper – 3,437,500 grams → 3.79 tons
Silver – 27,500 grams → 0.03 tons
Lead – 275,000 grams → 0.30 tons
Cadmium – 687,500 grams → 0.76 tons
Tellurium – 687,500 grams → 0.76 tons
Selenium – 137,500 grams → 0.15 tons
Gallium – 68,750 grams → 0.08 tons
Indium – 68,750 grams → 0.08 tons
Nickel – 137,500 grams → 0.15 tons
Tin – 137,500 grams → 0.15 tons
Zinc – 275,000 grams → 0.30 tons
Data for arsenic, barium, mercury, and chromium was not readily available for this panel type.

Large Batteries (BESS)

Lithium-ion batteries (BESS) have a propensity to catch fire and when fires happen, they produce very toxic gases and dangerous chemicals that pollute the countryside, water and air.

The known toxins released from lithium fires are:

hydrogen cyanide (HCN), ammonia (NH_3), chlorine (Cl_2), hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), hydrogen fluoride/hydrofluoric acid, and Cobalt, Nickel, Manganese.

Hydrofluric acid is formed when hydrogen fluoride is exposed to the moisture in the air and is an extremely dangerous substance. It is a contact poison.

Therefore, BESS should not be located close to residents. Testing and data showed the fallout from the last Moss Landing fire was 20 miles (32km).

Apart from nearby residents, Goulburn city may have to be evacuated should there be a battery fire and Southerly winds. Personally, I would be significantly impacted should there be a battery fire and a Westerly wind.

The fallout impact is not just humans' health, but livestock and native fauna health

Agri-solar

Given the contamination and pollution risks from panels, inverters and batteries, any "Agri-solar" endeavours risk the contamination of the food and fibre supply chain and the integrity of the associated industries.

Links:

Battery Fire California

Gateway Energy Storage System Fire: Otay Mesa, CA (youtube.com)

Moss Landing California Fall out Link:

Environmental tests reveal elevated levels of toxic metals since Moss Landing battery fire - Local News Matters

Documents:

VISTRA Fire Moss Landing report

BESS Danger in populated areas

Lithium Batteries SAFE WORK NSW

Leaching via weak spots in Photovoltaic Modules

Statement

I oppose the Merino Solar Facility as the risk of contamination, pollution and public health from this industrial facility is unacceptable.

Stan Moore

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11 February 2026