

To:

Honorable Dawn Rowe

District Supervisor, San Bernardino County

Letter of Concern:

Supervisor Rowe,

The recent events of a lithium battery container accident on interstate 15 the questions of how safe the community of Newberry Springs and what actions or assurance we have to be protected in the event a similar type incident takes place in the solar generation sites directly to the West and in our own jurisdiction.

Since the CSD does not and has not been allowed to be directly involved in the planning and regulatory discussions of such generation sites, we are at a loss as to how exactly an event will be supported with the below questions:

1. How or what mechanisms are/will be used to notify not only the Newberry Springs Fire Department but the community and public that an event is taking place?
2. Some general disaster planning tools and information would be helpful, like air pattern identification, plume models, projected contaminated/affected zones. Is this information available?
3. Points or persons of contact for emergency response and information / guidance. Many different companies have the generation sites, where is all this information collected at and how do we obtain it?
4. Is the county or OES prepared for an emergency evacuation or provisions for a shelter in place in the event of a lithium battery failure that can and may impact a major portion of Newberry Springs residents?

These are just some of the questions and answer seeking statements that need to be addressed. Furthermore, the continuance of allowing additional or expansion of the current generation operations just adds more possibility to an incident to be laid upon Newberry Springs. This should not be accepted practice any more and if so, more information, safe guards, alerting, and notification requirements need to be demanded and required.

To close this letter, it is requested that you gear your approvals toward the safety and protection of not only the landscape and pristine desert living by not allowing the soil disturbance and unsightly solar panels, but most importantly put the people of Newberry Springs safety and right to live in an area that is made unhealthy at the hands of human development that disregards everything to exercise their objectives.

Respectfully,

Board President

Newberry Community Services District