

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Fitzpatrick

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Comments for Public Posting: For reasons that deserve your serious consideration, the Scattergood Modernization Project, which calls for hydrogen and methane combustion, represents a health and safety risk to citizens of the L.A. Basin, an area with already some of the worst air quality in the U.S. Burning hydrogen produces nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which are associated with respiratory illness, asthma, heart disease, and premature death. In sunlight, nitrogen oxides are ozone precursors, meaning they can chemically transform and produce ozone, which also damages the respiratory tract. Burning methane produces CO₂, NO_x, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, benzene, ammonia, and formaldehyde. During startup and shutdown, emissions are much heavier than during mid-run because the pollution controls do not work well, so if Scattergood is used as a peaker plant, during a significant percentage of its running time it will be producing toxic pollutants at high volume. The Scattergood Modernization Project calls for eventual 100 percent hydrogen combustion, but burning 100 percent hydrogen at scale is not only untried but laden with dangers. Both hydrogen and methane are prone to leakage, and hydrogen is a greater safety risk because it embrittles steel pipelines and is prone to explosion. Hydrogen transport, storage, and combustion all represent safety risks to the people of the L.A. Basin, especially given that this is an area with recorded seismic activity. Finally, hydrogen production is water-intensive and should not be undertaken in drought-prone Southern California. The Scattergood Modernization Project presents too many risks to the health of citizens and the quality of life in the L.A. Basin, so the Los Angeles City Council must reject it.