

Fire

There will be an increased risk of fires, explosions, and oil spills with this project, which is located in a “very high” fire risk area with an excessive response time of 39 minutes by CalFire. Excelaron doesn't have a good plan to capture, handle, and dispose of the natural gas they will find, which is a local facility hazard and a regional fire hazard.

The EIR should conduct a risk analysis of the likelihood that fires, explosions and oil spills will occur and the potential environmental impacts of these events. This shouldn't apply to just the project site, but also along the haul route and on a regional level. It should look at the potential impacts to the greater Huasna-Lopez area, the communities of Arroyo Grande and Nipomo, the Los Padres National Forest, and the Huasna River and Twitchell Reservoir. It should also include an analysis of the effectiveness of mitigations such as a detailed emergency response plan to deal with any potential fires, explosions, or oil spills. The EIR shouldn't defer the preparation of such a plan to a later date.

They should be required to have reliable communications and emergency notification systems along with an evacuation plan and alert siren. They should follow CalFire's recommendations for an automatic fire suppression system. A new fire station should be considered as a mitigation and a fire safety impact fee should be developed as suggested by the City of Arroyo Grande. Such a fire station could serve the dual purpose of providing better protection to the Huasna-Lopez area and the Los Padres National Forest and would be a project benefit to the community.