

July 6, 2026

New Mexico Environment Department
Air Quality Bureau
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Comment in Support of Air Quality Permit Application No. 10883 — Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC; Agency Interest No. 41351 · PRN20260001 · Doña Ana County, New Mexico

Dear Air Quality Bureau:

Consumer Energy Alliance submits this comment in support of the above-referenced application and asks that the Department record our written interest pursuant to 20.2.72.206 NMAC.¹ We write this letter to support the use of fuel cell technology for the Yucca Growth Infrastructure (YGI).

I. “What’s changing is how we produce energy.” This project embodies that principle.

At the project’s inception, they YGI chose to utilize a fuel-cell microgrid. While CEA supports several different options to meet specific baseload energy needs, including the use of natural gas, this is a good approach, in our view. The proposed redesign reduces NOx by approximately 92%, uses a negligible amount of water, and emits near-zero sulfur oxides and particulates, while operating at a carbon intensity well below that of a conventional gas power plant or diesel generation.²³⁴

IV. The reality of energy technology choices in islanded data center applications.

Project Jupiter is planning to deploy Bloom fuel cells to power a 2.45 GW datacenter campus behind-the-meter (BTM) as a microgrid. The reality is that there are limited baseload options available in New Mexico that can power a large AI data center.

An analysis of available local renewable choices demonstrates that BTM renewables plus battery energy storage systems (BESS) are not a feasible alternative to fuel cells due to the extreme overbuild (5.6x solar,

¹N.M. Exec. Order 2019-003 (Jan. 2019) (directing a statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of at least 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels; joining the U.S. Climate Alliance; and creating the Interagency Climate Change Task Force, co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Environment Department and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department). A long-term net-zero-by-2050 target was subsequently added. See N.M. EMNRD, “Climate Change Task Force.”

²Id. (priorities include decarbonizing the grid through grid modernization, storage, and emerging technologies; addressing industry methane emissions and exploring carbon capture; and expanding EV charging and lower-carbon fuels). EMNRD Acting Secretary Erin Taylor: New Mexico remains an energy state, and what is changing is how that energy is produced.

³Oracle, BorderPlex Digital Assets & Bloom Energy, “Oracle, BorderPlex, and Bloom Energy to Power Project Jupiter with Cleaner, Water-Efficient Fuel Cell Technology” (Apr. 27, 2026) (the redesign replaces previously planned gas turbines and diesel generators with a fuel-cell microgrid, reducing NOx by approximately 92% and using a negligible amount of water).

⁴Bloom Energy, “How Bloom Reduces Emissions” (Technical Note) (CO₂ of 679–833 lb/MWh, versus approximately 960 lb/MWh for a natural-gas power plant and about 1,243 lb/MWh for a Tier 2 diesel generator; near-zero NOx and SOx; carbon capture feasible because carbon and nitrogen never mix in the cell); Bloom Energy, “... Hydrogen Solid Oxide Fuel Cell with ~60% Electrical Efficiency” (same platform demonstrated on natural gas, hydrogen, and blends).

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16.1x BESS) required to maintain even Tier 3 microgrid uptime (99.982%) with redundancy. BTM renewables would require 59,000 acres, equivalent to the size of Seattle or Sacramento and more land than the entire New Mexico Solar Energy Zone. Attempting to achieve a Tier 4 microgrid at this scale with renewables and storage would be even less practical.

The BESS required is double the capacity of new BESS installed in 2025 in all of the US. Even when considering only partial integration of solar into the project, at load coverage of 20%, the solar installation would require 12,000 acres, equivalent to 40% of the New Mexico Solar Energy Zone.

Please see the attached study which shows that despite the policy framework in place mandating a move toward net zero emissions from the power sector, natural gas-based generation will likely continue to be the primary way to underpin the system to ensure reliability.

Bloom BTM are nearly identical to the operating marginal emissions that would be induced from the grid over time. Physically separated from geographically proximate ERCOT and SPP markets (except through limited DC ties), this area of New Mexico operates in an area controlled by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). Southern WECC is characterized by a decentralized market structure that makes it difficult to observe marginal costs and emissions from the generation stack. But, since the generation mix and policy goals mirror southern California, forward modeling can be approximated through California's SP15 node. This reveals the Bloom project to be at emissions parity through 2040 based on the likely ongoing operation of legacy natural gas combustion generators on the margin.⁵

V. Meeting unavoidable new load.

The relevant policy question is not whether the load exists — demand for this kind of computing infrastructure is arriving across the country — but how it is powered. When new load is unavoidable, meeting it with the most reliable and affordable technology available should be easy to embrace.

VI. Conclusion.

Consumer Energy Alliance respectfully requests that the Department record our written interest in Air Quality Permit Application No. 10883 and issue the requested construction permit. The YGI Microgrid advances New Mexico's energy policy goals by providing a viable option for meeting energy needs in a clean, affordable, and reliable manner. When combined with a diverse energy portfolio built on a foundation of durable, baseload power, New Mexico can meet our energy needs now and into the future. CEA also respectfully requests the opportunity to participate in the technical comment period when it opens so that we may offer additional comments for the record. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and are available to provide additional information at the Department's request.

Sincerely,

David Holt
President

⁵ Resurety May 26, 2026 letter to Bloom Energy re: Use of Bloom Fuel Cells at Project Jupiter.

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