

I am a citizen of New Mexico who works in the renewable energy industry and I oppose issuance of this air quality construction permit and urge NMED to deny the application.

The YGI Microgrid application, as filed in the Las Cruces Sun News legal notice and reported by Source New Mexico, projects 10.1 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year, this is more than Albuquerque and Las Cruces combined. Despite the rebranding from gas turbines to oxide fuel cells, the fuel cells run on natural gas. This is not a “green energy” proposal; it is a costly fossil fuel power plant in repackaged form.

Water is an equally serious and unresolved concern. Doña Ana County sits in a drought-afflicted desert basin. The developers' water use figures have shifted repeatedly throughout the permitting process, and no binding, enforceable water use cap has been established in this application. NMED cannot responsibly issue a permit where the water impact on an already-stressed aquifer remains undefined.

Finally, the integrity of this public comment process has been compromised. Source New Mexico documented that Oracle's canvassing operation submitted form-letter public comments in the names of residents who never authorized them. NMED should view this as dangerous corporate tampering of our state's democratic process.

The application contains too many unresolved unknowns to issue a permit. I urge you to deny it.

Thanks,

Sources:

Source NM (GHG figures from Las Cruces Sun News legal notice)

Truthout/NPR (water utility violations)