



Demand Nuclear Abolition

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New Mexico Environment Department
Air Quality Bureau – Permitting Section
325 Camino de los Marquez, Ste. 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC Initial NSR Application

July 6, 2026

Dear NMED Permit Staff,

We are *Demand Nuclear Abolition* (DNA), a volunteer grassroots collective based in Albuquerque, New Mexico on occupied Tiwa lands. Formerly known as the *Nuclear Issues Study Group*, we have been active since 2016 working towards protecting New Mexico's air, land, water, and life forms from military, industrial, and nuclear violence.

We are writing in strong opposition to Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's permit application for the reasons outlined below. We join our voices with the thousands of New Mexicans who have spoken out against this egregious project which threatens the sanctity of water, defiles environmental & public health, deepens the historic harm of environmental racism, and pushes the Southwest region closer to climate catastrophe. We demand an extensive public hearing and that the application permit be denied.

- Nationwide, the rush to build datacenters is being used to justify building new nuclear reactors, including Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs). SMNRs are an expensive, unproven technology that relies on mining uranium and produces nuclear waste: continuing the legacy and violence of nuclear colonialism. In spite of their reliance on mining uranium and production of dirty radioactive waste, SMNRs are frequently proposed as “clean” or as a climate-friendly energy solution. This is a misleading form of greenwashing. The

current YGI permit proposal shifted away from SMNRs and is now proposing using fuel cell technology as a “clean” solution. Here again, the tactic of greenwashing is used to sidestep the fact that the microgrid will emit 161.2 tons/year of CO and 124 tons/year of VOCs near existing EPA non-attainment zones. It will generate a thermal plume and a "heat island" effect, raising downwind temperatures by up to 3.6°F in a sweltering desert climate, threatening vulnerable populations. **YGI's permit must be denied because it is a guaranteed climate disaster at a time when we need REAL climate solutions.**

- **YGI's permit application represents the newest form of environmental racism against communities who have been historically targeted for the most polluting industries.** New Mexico is not a sacrifice zone for dirty industries. The historic Hispanic/Latino communities of Santa Teresa and Sunland Park have spoken out about concerns about water usage, air quality, and infrastructure impact of this project. As the most immediately impacted communities, their concerns must be heard, addressed, and heeded before any action is taken to move Project Jupiter forward. If their concerns are sidelined in favor of industry, we see this as an egregious form of environmental racism.
- The local and statewide opposition to this proposal is strong and growing. In order to counter the democratic voice of the people, proponents of Project Jupiter have recently hired out-of-state canvassers and online influencers to try to sway public opinion in their favor by using deceptive and misleading tactics. We have personally encountered and spoken with these paid canvassers who are themselves uninformed about the project and unable to answer basic questions about project details. There have been multiple reports of canvassers submitting comments in support of the project using people's names without their consent or by using deceptive tactics. This is of great concern and should be investigated fully. **We demand a full democratic and public hearing before the project moves any further.**

In conclusion, YGI's permit application represents a threat to the future of New Mexico water, air, land, and communities. It represents the newest form of environmental racism in the guise of greenwashing. If approved, it would most surely move our region and indeed our world closer to climate catastrophe. We ask that for all of these reasons you hold a public hearing and deny the permit application.

Sincerely,

Demand Nuclear Abolition

Elizabeth Smith (Laguna Pueblo)

Joel Lorimer

Bianca Rivera

Brooke Holland

Rivala Garcia

Bryan Kendall

Téa Salazar

Eileen O'Shaughnessy

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