



Court filing appears to contradict Project Jupiter's promised job figures

Critics say changing figures keep community in the dark

BY **JOSHUA BOWLING** - MARCH 23, 2026 2:45 PM



The road to the cordoned-off Project Jupiter data center construction site as seen on March 22, 2026. (Joshua Bowling/Source NM)

A recent court filing from the tech giant Oracle says Project Jupiter, the massive data center campus under construction in Southern New Mexico, will create “at least 800” jobs once it’s built – an apparent reduction of nearly 50% from what developers have publicly promised.

When Doña Ana County commissioners [approved the development in September](#), they did so based on [documents](#) that projected approximately 750 full-time jobs with salaries of \$75,000 to \$100,000. Since then, Project Jupiter’s website and [the anonymous Elevate New Mexico advertising campaign](#) have promised increased figures. As of Monday morning, the development’s [website](#) promised “more than 4,000+ construction jobs and up to 1,500+ jobs onsite or in the County once construction is complete.”

But a new court filing from Oracle, which plans to use the data center campus along with OpenAI, says Project Jupiter is anticipated to create at least 2,500 construction jobs, as well as at least 800 “direct operational jobs” after construction ends and an unspecified number of “indirect jobs through increased customers for local businesses.” Currently, 1,250 people work at the project site, according to the filing.

The new figures come via a motion to intervene that Oracle filed last week in the New Mexico Environmental Law Center’s February lawsuit, which alleges that Doña Ana County commissioners violated the state’s Open Meetings Act when they “abruptly” paused a heated September meeting and met behind closed doors.

Oracle’s filing indicates a significant reduction in developers’ plans to hire in the area, Kacey Hovden, the New Mexico Environmental Law Center attorney leading the case, said.

“No one knows what Project Jupiter is actually going to bring to the community because the numbers change month to month,” Hovden told Source NM.

Even as county commissioners voted on the development in September, it wasn’t immediately clear how many jobs it would bring to the area. One document before county officials – which still had a grey watermark with the word “draft” written across it – said “approximately” 700 full-time employees would work at the development by Dec. 31, 2031. The [MOU](#) between the county and Project Jupiter – which also had the “draft” watermark – ensured “a minimum of 750 new full-time equivalent jobs and 50 part-time jobs within three years of commencing operation.”

In the months since then, the development’s public website changed to reflect that even more jobs were on the way. A spokesperson for the New Mexico Economic Development Department said the state’s latest figures show developers intend to create 750 jobs, but noted that the figure is likely outdated.

An [archived version](#) of Project Jupiter’s website shows that in September, the development projected “more than 2,500+ construction jobs and 750+ permanent jobs.” Archived versions of the site show that by March, the site updated to project more than 4,000 construction jobs and more than 1,500 jobs after construction.

Mailers in [the anonymous Elevate New Mexico campaign](#) promised “thousands of high-paying careers.”

To critics like Hovden, the changing numbers appear unreliable.

“There’s no hard statistics behind these projections they’re providing,” Hovden said. “They just doubled it to 1,500 a month-and-a-half ago, or so, and they’re taking it back again.”

Oracle's New Mexico attorneys and OpenAI did not respond to requests for comment. In an email, an Oracle spokesperson referred Source NM to [a January blog post](#) about the "boost" Project Jupiter will bring to Doña Ana County, such as creating "up to 1,500 jobs onsite or in the county once construction is complete." The post does not address the discrepancy in the job projections and Oracle did not respond to a subsequent request for comment seeking clarification.