

Peter McCarthy

In the comments you are receiving, I noticed (in form letters) that those who support Project Jupiter are touting its economic benefits - construction jobs and project-supported jobs, \$50 mil for local water system, \$360 mil for schools, infrastructure and local services, and a \$6.9 mil to fund workforce development, support the Boys & Girls Club and the local community college, and to restore habitat and clean drinking water. These are significant sums but compared to the sheer size of the \$165 billion dollar, 1400 acres, 3 million square foot project, and the tax breaks already given, barely a drop in the overall financial bucket. Corporate developers, Oracle, headed by Larry Ellison, the sixth wealthiest man in our country and a devoted Trump supporter, and OpenAI hope to gloss over the sheer environmental impact of this massive project by aggressively emphasizing these seemingly positive economic benefits. We see them inundating NM newspapers in an attempt to create a positive spin in order to manipulate public opinion in favor of a project which they know the majority of New Mexican residents are strongly opposed to. This negative opinion regarding burgeoning data centers is not just held by New Mexicans. In a recent poll, 71% of everyday Americans claimed they did not want one of big tech's massive data centers, the sheer scope of which are almost beyond ordinary folk's conception to truly comprehend, in their communities. This is why developers of these destructive projects are turning away from larger population centers and focusing on smaller more economically vulnerable communities. Even as the developers scurried to try to make this project more palatable to the public, it still remains a potential environmental nightmare which in all likelihood will only further enrich them and companies like Bloom Energy, whose stock price has risen 1,430% in the last year alone. Bloom Energy is going to provide a technology the scope of which they have NEVER done before. Their fuel cell technology has never occurred at the scale being proposed for Project Jupiter - 1000 times larger than the largest existing Bloom fuel cell installation. Even if Bloom can pull this off (and what are the environmental ramifications if they can't?), no one actually knows with certainty what the overall deleterious effects (especially long-term) will be except that, without a doubt, high levels of greenhouse gas and toxic pollutants (the plans for handling of which are still a mystery) will absolutely be produced and will absolutely impact the health, safety and welfare of surrounding communities. When all is said and done, this is the issue the NMED Air Quality Bureau should be concerned about. But there are other valid concerns. In one of the comments I read, Kathleen Walsh wrote "Aqua es vida!" This project has attempted to become more water efficient, but the stark reality is that massive data centers require millions of gallons of precious water to operate. In the face of the extreme drought conditions we are now under, their need for this finite resource will certainly exacerbate the risk of depleting (and/or polluting) endangered aquifers that communities need for their very survival. Lastly, an important environmental issue, which can be easily be swept aside when such staggering sums of money are being thrown around, enriching the few and the powerful but endangering the majority of others without clout or sway, is quality of life. Again, I agree with Kathleen Walsh who wrote, "We need our water and peace of mind. We don't want it stealing our electricity and making us pay for it. We don't want the noise it generates. Please save our water!" I urge the New Mexico Environmental Department to reject the Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's initial NSR air quality permit application for the YGI Microgrid and to preserve and protect our endangered New Mexico environment (and quality of life), as you are so empowered to do.