

Alex Maas

Dear NMED staff,

My name is Alex Maas. I am a New Mexico resident, living in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and I am writing because I am concerned about the risks and harms Project Jupiter poses to New Mexican's. I am submitting this comment to urge the New Mexico Environmental Department reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Micro-grid in Doña Ana County.

I grew up in New Mexico exploring the outdoors, and taking care of the people, land, and animals around me. I have found a deep sense of peace in the outdoors and I believe it is an unquestionable right to have clean air, water, and environments. NMED's mission is "to protect and restore the environment and foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations." Granting these permit applications is a direct contradiction to that mission.

Project Jupiter's power plant will release up to 10 million tons of climate-warming greenhouse gasses every year. This would make a mockery of NM's climate goals, and erase most of the climate progress we have made in the last two decades. This is more greenhouse gas pollution than New Mexico's three largest cities: Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe combined.

Everyone can see that something is not right here. What happened to the public hearing the state Air Quality Bureau recommended on the previous applications that the industry has since redacted? NMED should not overlook the overwhelming community concern expressed in the last public comment period, which still applies to this same project.

The project's proposed fuel cell powered grid is concerning for many reasons:

- It would produce a high level of greenhouse gas and toxic pollutants. Every living being and ecosystem would be exposed to this for greedy people to turn a profit and a blind eye.
- This technology generates toxic waste, and the process for handling this waste is still unclear. Dumping waste into the environment is not acceptable, and it is downright unnecessary to create this waste in the first place.
- Fuel cell technology has never occurred at this scale and will no doubt have detrimental consequences.
- Surrounding communities' air would be negatively impacted by this development. That means everyone from infants to the elderly would suffer.

I urge the NMED to outright reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid. I ask the department to please hold a bilingual public hearing near the Santa Teresa community, so that residents can learn about the risks associated with fuel cell technology and defend their communities from this injustice.

With integrity and expansion,

Alex Maas