

Marlene Chavez

I support the mission of the New Mexico Environment Department "to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations." I also support the Air Quality Bureau's responsibility to "protect the public health of New Mexicans and the natural beauty of the state by preventing the deterioration of air quality." For these reasons, I urge NMED to deny the air quality permit for the proposed AI/data center project. Bloom Energy has a documented history of illegally dumping hazardous waste, and that history raises serious concerns about whether this project can be operated in a manner that protects public health and the environment. At a minimum, the public should be given an additional 60 days to review and comment on the permit application so community members can participate equitably. If the permit is not denied, NMED must hold a public hearing in Santa Teresa, conducted in both English and Spanish, with a virtual participation option so all affected residents have meaningful access to the process. Approving this permit would amount to government-sponsored environmental racism. Residents of Doña Ana County are already disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution, and for years the county has been classified as a "non attainment" area, meaning our air quality does not meet federal standards. Adding another major source of emissions would further harm a community that is already struggling with poor air quality. NMED's mission is to protect present and future generations, not to allow additional pollution in a community that has already borne more than its fair share. I respectfully request that the permit be denied.