

Laura Brainard

Comment on the Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC-YGI Microgrid Air Quality Construction Permit Application.

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July 6, 2026

To the New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau: I am a New Mexico resident, and I am writing to ask you to deny the air quality construction permit application for the Yucca Growth Infrastructure (YGI) Microgrid, the power plant for Project Jupiter, near Santa Teresa in Doña Ana County.

The application asks the state to allow a 2,462-megawatt gas-fed fuel cell plant to run 8,760 hours a year, non-stop, next to homes and a high school in Santa Teresa. By the company's own emissions tables, it would release roughly 161 tons of carbon monoxide, 124 tons of smog-forming VOCs, 75 tons of fine particulates (PM2.5), and 37 tons of nitrogen oxides every year, along with about 10.1 million tons of greenhouse gases, more than two million cars' worth of climate pollution from a single site.

The plan provides for zero pollution control measures and no carbon capture: no scrubbers, catalytic controls, nothing. In my opinion, the plan appears to be designed to dodge scrutiny, which is what this company appears to keep doing; as with splitting the plan into two permits to dodge limits in their first try. And are they stealing non-consenting signatures to create pretend supporters? You need to investigate the signatures. Are you asking enough questions? Is there a chance of understatement? Instead of spending millions on media spin, that money should be spent on pollution controls and transparency. Clean engineering needs to be part of the plan.

Because the permit application is with the air quality department the permit application does not look at near-term or long-term effects on the county and local residents on water, waste heat, light pollution, round the clock noise, dust, airborne particulates, plus the construction impacts of diesel truck traffic emissions and congestion.

By itself, the plan ought to be rejected and this application terminated solely because the pollutant numbers are staggering, does not consider current air quality conditions of the county, it will effect the state's own air quality objectives and contiguous populations, and they have no intention or plan to mitigate the well documented issues and harms this could unleash. The paltry promise of a handful of jobs is not going to make up for the long-term costs this project will inflict. Please tell Project Jupiter and its partners to pack it in and leave because they lack the transparency credibility, ethics, or integrity New Mexican law makers, residents, visitors, and neighboring states deserve and demand.

I ask: Please deny the permit and hold the in-person hearing in Santa Teresa, in English and Spanish and online, so the people who will breathe this air and feel its impacts can be heard.

Public service is hard sometimes and you might think of yourselves as "we at the Environment Department" but really this a question for each one of you, individually because each one of you has

a choice, and it goes on the public record. This permit is your chance to tell every New Mexican what you care about. Will you stand by and let billionaire money ruin the air quality, and the right to health and prosperity of the people you are supposed to protect, or will you stand by the people who live here and breathe this air?

But you might approve it anyway so if this permit is approved despite everything, the public has the right to know the decision was made cleanly and how it was made.

I further ask the Department to place on the record for this application: any contact between agency decision-makers and Yucca Growth Infrastructure, Project Jupiter, or their lobbyists and consultants outside the public process; any financial, contractual, employment, or gift relationship, and any non-disclosure or side agreement involving this agency or its staff that touches these companies or this project; and the recusal of any decision-maker who has such a tie. Transparency is not an accusation. It is the least the people are owed when a project this size asks to pollute their air for decades. So, the question stands, and New Mexico is watching the answer: what will you decide to protect?

Respectfully, A New Mexico resident

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