

Paloma Baron

As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I encourage the NMED to deny Bloom Energy's recently contested permit. This goes further than the fact that Bloom has a history of illegally dumping hazardous waste. The people of New Mexico, especially our Hispanic and Native American populations, are consistently affected disproportionately by environmental hazards caused by industrialization. The environmental hazards inherent in large-scale AI data centers will become another negative statistic for the health and well-being of minorities. It will also harm not only the people, but also the flora and fauna of the lands they call home. Furthermore, AI data centers consume quantities of water that would plunge the state into even more dire levels of drought--again, affecting minorities who rely on availability of already scarce resources to live and work. I encourage the NMED to give the public an additional 60 days to review and comment on the air quality permit. Additionally, should the permit not be denied, a public hearing should be held in Santa Teresa in multiple languages and with virtual options. By allowing Project Jupiter to move forward, the state allows residents of Doña Ana county and the state at large to become expendable fodder in a class war in which the rich and powerful are the victors. Please consider the needs of the people of New Mexico and the environment of the Land of Enchantment before corporate profit.

"The public should be given an additional 60 days to review and comment on the air quality permit so community members can participate equitably.

The air quality permit application should be denied outright given Bloom Energy's history of illegal dumping hazardous waste. Approving this permit would be government-sponsored environmental racism directed at residents of Doña Ana County.

If the permit is not denied outright, a public hearing needs to be held in Santa Teresa, in both English and Spanish, with an option to participate virtually."