

Rachel Armijo

I am a resident of Las Cruces and I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. I live here with many generations of my family and this is our home. I want future generations to live here knowing they have a safe and secure future. That future is under threat with this proposed air quality permit. A change to fuel cells has minimal impacts on the suffering we will endure as a result of the gas plant's air pollution. To add 10 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution and a vague estimate of toxic emissions to our active and long-time nonattainment zone would be nothing short of blatant environmental racism. Our metro area is currently 16th worst in the nation for ozone pollution and we have received a failing grade on this air quality standard every single year since 2000. We are already breathing some of the most compromised air in the country. It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyperscale air pollution into our communities. The carbon dioxide pollution alone will heat our atmosphere at a much faster pace and promote the formation of even more ground-level ozone. We cannot afford more intense heat. The other toxic air pollutants are extremely dangerous—many of them at very low levels. New Mexico is not for sale to tech billionaires who look at our state as something to exploit and our populace as a barrier to wealth. I strongly urge the Department to reject the new proposal from the developers of project Jupiter. The impact of AI data centers on the environment and community health is not known. We must build a sustainable future for our beautiful state and protect the natural resources that make New Mexico special. Bloom Energy has a history of illegally dumping hazardous waste! I request 60 additional days for the public to review the permit. If the permit is not denied a public hearing must be held in Santa Teresa with an option to attend virtually.