

Isabel Roberts

Dear NMED staff,

I am writing because I am concerned about the risks and harms Project Jupiter poses to New Mexicans and the dangerous precedent it sets for citizens across the Nation. I am submitting this comment to urge the New Mexico Environment Department to reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid in Doña Ana County.

I grew up in Dona Ana county in the Robledos Mountains and have seen the effects that prolonged drought has had on this environment. There used to be tadpoles during the monsoon season. They are no longer here. There is not enough rain and moisture to sustain them. There used to be unique insects that would make themselves known every season. They are no longer here. The environment is continuing to devolve due to the stressors of drought and increased heat that will only become more acute under the impacts of climate change. The soil will become hydrophobic, dust storms will become more severe, and agricultural production will fail. We will continue to lose biodiversity and our loved ones. These are the impacts of climate change that this project will exacerbate.

My Father's Father died when he was nine years old due to cancer. This loss forever changed my family and we are still suffering his death into my generation. He died due to toxic waste contaminating drinking water from mining operations near his home. The fuel cell proposition for this project will produce concentrated hazardous waste. There is no indication of where this toxic waste will be deposited. Likely, it will find its way into the bodies of the Santa Teresa Elementary schoolers and High Schoolers who are located within five miles of this project site. The toxins won't stop there. They will find their way into the homes of unprecedented and unevaluated amounts of people. Hazardous chemicals will leach into soil, air, and water. How many children, spouses, and loved ones is NMED willing to expose to this irrevocable harm? Chemical exposure is a slow death that this project promises for those it impacts. The data center will not be held liable for this harm. It is here to make profit, no matter how many deaths it takes. Because of this, the fate of hundreds of thousands of people now rests within NMED's hands.

NMED's mission is "to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations." If NMED allows this project to continue it is abandoning those it is tasked to protect. It is leaving them at the will of those who will take their water and pollute it further, sell it back to them, and leave NMED with the consequences of generations of cancer patients, environmental degradation, and loss beyond comparison.

I am so deeply wounded that this project was ever allowed past the desks of County Commissioners of Dona Ana. This area is our home. This area is worthy of protection. The people are entitled to clean air, water, and the protection of those charged with their care. Please do right by the land, people, and air. Please do right by New Mexico.

Reject YUCCA 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.

Do not let this community down. Reject this proposal and continue to fight for the health and safety of New Mexicans now and for generations to come.

Thank you,
Isabel Roberts