

Justin de la O

I STRONGLY oppose the proposed Project Jupiter development in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, because of its potential impacts on air quality, climate, water resources, public health, and the integrity of the public decision-making process.

One of my primary concerns is the projects proposed microgrid. If the microgrid relies on fossil fuel-powered generation, it will produce carbon dioxide (CO) emissions along with other air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NO), particulate matter, and other combustion byproducts. These emissions contribute to climate change and can negatively affect local air quality, increasing health risks for nearby residents, especially children, older adults, and people with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

I am also concerned by the projects assurances that it will use only minimal amounts of water and will not affect electricity rates for local customers. While those claims may be well intentioned, they are difficult to accept without independent verification. Communities across the country have raised concerns about data centers placing unexpected demands on water supplies, increasing electricity consumption, and contributing to higher infrastructure costs. Those experiences make it reasonable to question whether similar impacts could occur here.

Equally important is the need for a transparent and trustworthy public process. Many community members, myself included, have serious concerns about how this project has moved through the approval process. The perception that the project has been rushed through by county officials has undermined public confidence. Any questions about whether proper procedures were followed should be thoroughly and independently reviewed, and anyone found to have violated the law or abused the publics trust should be held accountable.

I am also troubled by reports from community members who say they submitted comments opposing the project but later found their views inaccurately represented as supportive on public comment boards or records. If these reports are accurate, they deserve immediate investigation and correction. Every resident has the right to have their comments recorded accurately and fairly, regardless of whether they support or oppose the project.

Santa Teresa has already experienced significant industrial growth, and adding another major source of emissions moves our community in the wrong direction. At a time when cleaner energy technologies are becoming more widely available, approving a project that depends on fossil fuel generation would undermine efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect public health.

I am also concerned about the cumulative environmental impacts of Project Jupiter, including increased truck traffic, construction-related emissions, noise, and additional demands on local infrastructure and natural resources. Before this project moves forward, the public deserves complete transparency regarding the microgrids fuel source, expected annual CO emissions, water consumption, air pollutant emissions, and the potential effects on the regional electric grid and utility rates.

Economic development is important, but it should not come at the expense of clean air, reliable and affordable utilities, limited water resources, or an open and accountable government. I urge

decision-makers to reject Project Jupiter as currently proposed or, at a minimum, require a comprehensive and independent review of its environmental, infrastructure, and community impacts while ensuring that the public participation process is transparent, accurate, and worthy of the community's trust.

Extremely concerned,
J. DeLaO