

Anonymous Anonymous

I am a resident of Santa Teresa, NM and I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. I have lived here with my family for many years this is my hometown and it will be the next generation's hometown as well. We need to protect our land and the earth's resources so that we can continue raising the next generations to come. We need to secure a safe and secure future for them. The 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 polluted zone would be nothing short of blatant environmental racism. This was all done without consideration of the people who own property in this area. These greedy corporations have been getting away with this all across America. Our cities are considered "Sacrifice Zones". 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. It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyperscale air pollution into our communities. Fuel cells also create hazardous waste and the fuel cell provider for this project has a history of illegally dumping this waste and hiding it for several years. This company will likely repeat its bad habits, illegally dumping dangerous and undisclosed chemicals into our public landfills. How is that this company still moving forward with these plans? Our county has and continues to face an illegal dumping epidemic so how can I be sure that these systemic oversight failures we have locally won't continue and expand to include this dangerous and experimental fuel cell operation. A fine for illegal dumping does not undo damage or its spread once our aquifer and soils are contaminated. It also will not re-capture the volatile chemicals that are released into the air when hazardous waste is improperly stored and disposed of. Not only am I worried about the air quality but also our water resources. I cannot remember the last time I drank water from our indoor faucet. A family member who use to work for the local water company tested our water and found it to be contaminated and ever since then we have NEVER drank water from the faucet. Now our air quality is something even more to think about. This is not normal and a huge threat to human life. Again these greedy companies see our people and the land as a "Sacrifice Zone" which gives the impression that we are considered below them. So with that said the community demands the following: - 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 given Bloom Energy's history of illegal dumping hazardous waste. - A public hearing needs to be held in Santa Teresa, in both English and Spanish, with an option to participate virtually if the permit is not denied. Approving this permit would be government-sponsored environmental racism as residents of Doña Ana County are already disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution.