

Los Jardines Institute

Dear New Mexico Air Quality Bureau,

On behalf of Los Jardines Institute, we urge you to give the public an additional 60 days to review and comment, deny the Air Quality Construction Permit 10883 for Yucca Growth Infrastructure Microgrid in southern Doña Ana County, and hold a bilingual public hearing. You all hold the institutional responsibility to protect our scarce water resources and the public health of Mexicano, Hispano, and Indigenous communities that will be impacted by Project Jupiter. If Project Jupiter continues, it will be a clear example of environmental racism, especially given Bloomberg's fuel cell microgrid's emissions will continue to pollute our communities with over 10 million tons of CO2. We once again want to remind you that communities on the borderlands have been historically sacrificed for the state's so-called "innovation." These are the same communities that have not had access to clean potable drinking water for years. We cannot prioritize water access and energy demand for Project Jupiter, a project that is neither needed nor wanted.

Most importantly, we request that you, as an agency, do your due diligence. Hold a bilingual public hearings in Santa Teresa, with virtual access, and distribute documentation in Spanish and English to ensure the public can respond to the department's analysis. Project Jupiter works against the state's climate goals, further contributing to overall air pollution and harming the health of New Mexicans statewide.

At Los Jardines, we supported Bernalillo County's Health, Equity, and Environmental Impacts Regulation because of unregulated emissions harming working communities of color across Albuquerque, specifically Mountainview and the South Valley.

At the moment, the state does not have proper air quality regulations or departmental capacity to ensure oversight and enforcement of our air quality and the protection of our public health, as your department has stated time and time again. Granted permits for the YGI microgrid application will not only be a reckless decision, but a costly one for our communities. Deny YGI's microgrid air quality permits, hold bilingual hearings, ensure public engagement is intentional by granting an additional 60 day public review process, and protect our health and environment. Do not permit the sacrifice of our people and our lands.

Sincerely,
Los Jardines Institute