

Claire Romero

I request that you reject the Yucca Growth Infrastructure's (YGI's) air quality permit application to construct a methane-fueled power plant near Santa Teresa, NM in southern Doña Ana County. I also request that you hold both a public meeting and a formal evidentiary hearing on the application. The bottom line is that pollution from this power plant has the very real potential to harm people and the environment. YGI's pollution will add to the already unhealthy levels of both ozone and nitrogen oxides that New Mexicans are being exposed to in this area, two toxic chemicals that cause harm to our lungs, hearts, and brains, among many other health issues. This damage to air quality will also harm the surrounding ecosystem and ultimately add to the global climate crisis. YGI's power plant will be the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state of New Mexico, emitting more carbon pollution (10.1 million tons per year!) than New Mexico's three largest cities – Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Las Cruces – combined.

The proposed power plant will use a new technology, methane fuel cells, manufactured by Bloom Energy. The application includes results Bloom Energy's technology does not have enough of a track record to justify approving a 2.4 gigawatt (GW) power plant. Bloom's largest operational power plant project is a 40 megawatt (MW) system that began operation on Dec 22, 2025, at Chunju Eco Park in South Korea. The power plant uses 120 of Bloom's 330 kilowatt (kW) fuel cell stacks compared to more than 7000 that will be needed for Project Jupiter. The Chunju Eco Park installation is 60 times smaller than the proposed Project Jupiter power plant and has been operating for only six months. No public data are available regarding air pollution emitted from the Chunju Eco Park installation in those six months. IN SHORT, IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY FOR AN AGENCY, WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT CITIZENS AND THE ENVIRONMENT WE LIVE IN, TO APPROVE THIS PERMIT.