

Jonathan Juarez

Dear New Mexico Environment Department,

My name is Jonathan Juárez. I am 23 years old, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, and a resident of Albuquerque. My family has called what is now New Mexico home for more than thirty generations. Over 50 years ago, my grandfather was forced to relocate our family from our ancestral village after uranium mining devastated the land where my family had lived in relationship with the land since time immemorial.

That history is not separate from this permit. It is the reason I am writing today.

For generations, New Mexican communities have been told that environmental destruction is the price of "progress." We have watched corporations extract from our land, poison our water, pollute our air, and leave our communities to bear the consequences while they reap the profits. Project Jupiter and AI resource grabs are simply the newest chapter in a long history of New Mexico being treated as a resource colony for the rest of the country. My family has already lived through the consequences of government choosing corporate promises over the health and well-being of our communities. We are still living with those consequences today.

That history is why I urge the Department to evaluate this application with the highest possible level of scrutiny.

The environmental impacts of this project are staggering. Public reporting and information provided by state officials indicate the project could require nearly one million gallons of water every single day at a time when New Mexico faces worsening drought, declining aquifers, and long-term water insecurity. Whether that water is classified as potable or non-potable does not change the reality that water is a finite resource in the Chihuahuan Desert. Every gallon diverted to power artificial intelligence is a gallon that cannot sustain our communities, our farmers, our acequias, our wildlife, and future generations of New Mexicans.

The proposed pollution is equally alarming. Even under the revised permit application, Project Jupiter remains a massive fossil fuel-powered industrial development. The facility is expected to emit approximately 10 million tons of greenhouse gases every year, more than hundreds of thousands of homes in Albuquerque and Las Cruces combined, while continuing to release nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds and other pollutants that threaten public health.

Bloom's fuel cells are still powered by natural gas. They are not "clean energy," regardless of how they are marketed. They continue to generate harmful air pollution while producing hazardous solid waste. Bloom Energy has previously been cited by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for illegally disposing of hazardous waste. NMED should require full disclosure of Bloom Energy's environmental compliance history and carefully evaluate whether the applicant has provided all relevant information necessary for an informed permitting decision.

The project's projected electricity demand is another alarming picture. Public estimates indicate that Project Jupiter could ultimately require roughly half of the electricity currently consumed across

the entire State of New Mexico. Meeting that demand will require an unprecedented expansion of energy infrastructure dedicated to powering private artificial intelligence systems rather than meeting the needs of New Mexican families, businesses, and communities.

Nearly one million gallons of water every day. Millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year. Massive emissions of NOx, CO, and VOCs. Hazardous industrial waste. An extraordinary demand for electricity. Together these represent one of the largest industrial environmental footprints ever proposed in New Mexico. This project would fundamentally transform the environmental landscape of southern New Mexico for the benefit of some of the wealthiest individuals on Earth.

These impacts also raise profound environmental justice concerns. Doña Ana County already bears a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution compared to much of the rest of New Mexico. My own family knows firsthand what happens when Indigenous and rural communities become sacrifice zones in the name of economic development. Environmental justice is not merely a slogan or an aspirational goal. It is a responsibility. NMED has both a legal and moral obligation to ensure that no community bears a disproportionate share of environmental harm simply because powerful corporations have decided that community is politically convenient.

Unfortunately, my concerns do not end with the environmental impacts of this project.

The conduct surrounding Project Jupiter has raised equally serious concerns about the integrity of this permitting process. Project Jupiter's backers have invested heavily in sophisticated public relations campaigns, paid influencers, paid canvassers, and undisclosed lobbying efforts designed to manufacture the appearance of public support. The New Mexico State Ethics Commission has already filed suit against a group promoting Project Jupiter for alleged violations of the Lobbyist Regulation Act

Even more alarming are the growing reports that supportive public comments were submitted in residents' names without their knowledge or consent. Multiple New Mexicans have publicly stated that after expressing skepticism or opposition to paid canvassers, comments supporting Project Jupiter later appeared under their names. Albuquerque City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn has publicly stated that comments supporting Project Jupiter were submitted in her name without her authorization. These point to a disturbing pattern of conduct that undermines the legitimacy of this entire public process. NMED itself has acknowledged these allegations and stated that it is reviewing them. If these reports are accurate, they represent an attack on the integrity of this permitting process, something Oracle, OpenAI, and their affiliates cannot be allowed to get away with

A permitting process is only as legitimate as the public participation upon which it relies. If support for this project must be manufactured through deceptive influence campaigns, undisclosed lobbying, and the unauthorized submission of public comments, then NMED should carefully scrutinize every representation made by the applicant and those acting on its behalf. Conduct before a permit is issued speaks volumes about how an applicant can be expected to behave after approval.

I urge the New Mexico Environment Department to ensure that every public comment submitted without the knowledge or consent of the named individual is removed from the administrative record and referred for investigation. I further urge the Department to refer any evidence of

fraudulent or deceptive conduct to the appropriate enforcement authorities, including the Office of the Attorney General

This case is about whether New Mexico will continue repeating the same cycle that has defined so much of our history: corporations arrive promising prosperity, extract enormous wealth from our land and resources, leave communities with pollution and depleted water supplies, and move on while New Mexicans are left to bear the consequences.

My family has already lived through one sacrifice zone. Today I am asking you not to create another.

For the sake of our air, our water, our climate, the integrity of this public process, the Department's obligation to uphold environmental justice, and the generations of New Mexicans who will inherit the consequences of this decision, I respectfully urge the New Mexico Environment Department to deny Project Jupiter's permit application.

Respectfully,
Jonathan Juárez