

Kristyn Anonymous

Dear NMED staff, My name is Kristyn. I am writing because I am concerned about the risks and harms Project Jupiter poses to New Mexicans. I am submitting this comment to urge the New Mexico Environment Department to reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid in Doña Ana County. As an advocate for the environment, I am deeply concerned as Project Jupiter's power plant will release up to 10 million tons of climate-warming greenhouse gasses every year. This would make a mockery of NM's climate goals, and erase most of the climate progress we have made in the last two decades. This is more greenhouse gas pollution than New Mexico's three largest cities combined – Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe. Additionally, the proposed "micro" grid has a 2,462 MW Capacity. For comparison, the El Paso Electric grid is about 2,900 megawatts (which services NM's second largest city, Las Cruces) and the entire PNM grid is about 2,700 megawatts. Each of those grids include a substantial amount of renewable energy sources and each of those grids has lower total greenhouse gas pollution than just Project Jupiter's proposed power plant. There is also concern for those living nearby. Santa Teresa Elementary and High School are located within five miles of this project site. 96% of students at the high school are hispanic. There are also day care centers located within miles of this site. This is an environmental injustice to these children who are especially vulnerable to the health impacts of NOX, CO, and VOCs. Plus, the Chihuahuan Desert borderlands are not a barren dump site for Bloom Technologies to test their experimental technologies. Santa Teresa should not serve as ground zero for Bloom Technologies to scale their toxic technologies. Thirdly, Tribal governments like Tortugas Pueblo, Ysleta del Sur, and Pueblo communities with landholdings in Doña Ana county near the site have not been properly notified of this air permit application request. The project's proposed fuel cell powered grid is concerning for many reasons: It would still produce a high level of greenhouse gas and toxic pollutants. This technology generates toxic waste, and the process for handling this waste is still unclear. Fuel cell technology or a centralized waste system has never occurred at this scale. Surrounding communities' air will be negatively impacted by this development. I urge the NMED to outright reject YUCCA Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid. If NMED does not reject the permit, I ask the department to please hold a bilingual hybrid public hearing near the Santa Teresa community, so that residents can learn about the risks associated with fuel cell technology. NMED should also give the public 60 days of additional time to review and comment on the Application to ensure everyone can meaningfully comment and participate. Sincerely, Kristyn