

Adrastos Da Silva

Dear NMED,

My name is Adrastos Da Silva, and am writing on behalf of Youth United for Climate Crisis Action. We are a state-wide group of young people fighting for a livable climate and our future. We are writing to urge you to deny Air Quality Construction Permit Application 10883 for the Yucca Growth Infrastructure (YGI) Microgrid in southern Doña Ana County. Granting this permit violates NMED's mission "to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations." This project would disproportionately impact BIPOC communities in the surrounding area, and leave us younger generations with the responsibility of cleaning up Project Jupiter's ecologically disastrous mess.

YUCCA is deeply concerned with Project Jupiter's plan to power this facility with Bloom Energy's Solid Oxide Fuel Cells. This technology is unprecedented and unproven at such a scale. The largest operating Bloom installation is a 40 MW facility and this facility in Santa Teresa would be 60 times larger than that. Scaling this technology to a mega-utility application remains unproven, and presents hazardous risks to communities already experiencing poor air quality.

As young people, we urge NMED to take a stand against the severe climate and health impacts that this proposed "microgrid" poses. YGI will still emit 161.2 tons/year of CO and 124 tons/year of VOCs near existing EPA non-attainment zones. It will generate a thermal plume and a "heat island" effect, raising downwind temperatures by up to 3.6°F in a sweltering desert climate, threatening vulnerable populations.

Moreover, the emissions data the companies provided cannot be trusted. It is based on testing of a single, 65 kW unit four times for four hours. Extrapolating data from a unit 37,876 times smaller than the proposed plant capacity - and adjusting it with an arbitrary 15% safety margin. Why should we trust their calculations based on assumptions?

Communities in southern Doña Ana County are already facing hotter and hotter days due to climate change, unhealthy levels of air pollution, and grave water issues. The last thing it needs is a mega fuel cell powered ai data center. NMED must be bold enough to reject the YGI permit application, or at the very least schedule a formal, bilingual public hearing in the Santa Teresa area to fully investigate the risks. Regardless of your state agency's process, YUCCA remains steadfast in its fight for a livable climate and future beyond fossil-fuels.

Respectfully,

Adrastos Da Silva

YUCCA Director