

Noah Henderson

Dear NMED staff,

My name is Noah Henderson. I am a New Mexico resident, living in O'ga P'ogeh, and 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.

Although I was not born and raised here in this state, I truly recognize it as a land of enchantment. We need to protect our natural lands.

We need to listen to those whose ancestors were on these lands long before we were, especially when they are standing up for sacred lands. 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.

We need to recognize the humanity of students attending schools within 5 miles of the proposed site. We need to acknowledge that this permit would cause harm to a school with a majority hispanic population. No student deserves to be subjected to pollution that will likely cause long-term harm to them and their community. Innocent children do not deserve to be victims of this pollution. Let's learn from the examples of the uranium mines in our state that destroyed the environment and wreaked havoc on majority indigenous or tribal communities and their ancestral lands. Those companies had no clear plan for handling the waste and human beings suffered for it. New Mexicans suffered for it.

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. I ask the department to please hold a bilingual public hearing near the Santa Teresa community, so that residents can learn about the risks associated with fuel cell technology.

Sincerely,

Noah Henderson