

Jessica Brown

I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. That future is under threat with this proposed air quality permit. A change to fuel cells has minimal impacts on the suffering folks will endure as a result of the gas plant's air pollution. To add 10 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution and a vague estimate of toxic emissions to the active and long-time nonattainment zone would be nothing short of blatant environmental racism. The metro area is currently 16th worst in the nation for ozone pollution and they have received a failing grade on this air quality standard every single year since 2000. They are already breathing some of the most compromised air in the country.

It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyperscale air pollution into these communities. The carbon dioxide pollution alone will heat our atmosphere at a much faster pace and promote the formation of even more ground-level ozone. Fuel cells also create hazardous waste and the fuel cell provider for this project has a history of illegally dumping this waste and hiding it for several years. New Mexico Environment Department should give the public an additional 60 days to review and comment on the air quality permit so community members can participate equitably. The air quality permit application should be denied outright given Bloom Energy's history of illegal dumping hazardous waste. Approving this permit would be government-sponsored environmental racism directed at residents of Doña Ana County. If the permit is not denied outright, a public hearing needs to be held in Santa Teresa, in both English and Spanish, with an option to participate virtually.