

Sophia Anonymous

Project Jupiter initially applied for air permits to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) back in April, under the first name Acoma LLC. This original application sought to build two, separate gas power plants. After the public successfully submitted over 7,000 comments that were overwhelmingly in opposition to the gas plants, the developers have decided to completely scrap those applications and re-start the process proposing a new kind of fuel cell technology. They have re-named themselves Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC and have re-submitted new air permits to NMED. Meanwhile, there is an industry marketing effort to greenwash this change. The toxic pollutants are now under "acceptable" levels that make it harder for NMED to regulate, but the greenhouse gas emissions remain extremely high and the proposal is still significantly polluting. These companies are claiming that this shift to fuel cells is because they care about the community's concerns. In reality, this shift makes it easier for them to bypass outdated state regulation and advance their plan as quickly as possible. We need as many people to speak up again against this development! The air quality permit application should be denied given Bloom Energy's history of illegal dumping hazardous waste. If the permit is not denied, a public hearing needs to be held in Santa Teresa, in both English and Spanish, with an option to participate virtually. Approving this permit would be government-sponsored environmental racism as residents of Doña Ana County are already disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution.