

Kirana Erlangga

Dear NMED staff,

My name is Kirana, 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.

I am a student who recently graduated from middle school in Southeast Asia. As a student myself, I can recognize the hardships when learning in an environment that doesn't support it. No one should be able to have limitations to learning, but it should be even to all.

My personal reason is that 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. And the fact that NMED's mission is "to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations." Granting these permit applications is a direct contradiction to that mission.

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 been tried at this scale.

Surrounding communities' air will be severely impacted by this development.

I urge the NMED to 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.

Calls to action :

I urge the NMED to reject YUCCA Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid.

The public should be given 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 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.

For years, Doña Ana County has been called a 'nonattainment' zone— this means our air quality does not meet federal government rules.

Sincerely, Kirana.