

Heather Muller

The New Mexico Environment Department should deny this application. The planned fuel cells will generate significant nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds. These all have harmful health impacts. The permit would require the use of natural gas, which creates significant emissions that are harmful to human health and contribute to increased ozone levels. The region already suffers disparate harms in water quality and air quality. Approval of this application would further degrade community health and well-being and further mistreat a region whose rights to a healthy environment have been often ignored.

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 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.