

Aeron Barbier

New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) mission is "to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous NM for present and future generations." NMED's Air Quality Bureau "protects the public health of New Mexicans and the natural beauty of the state by preventing the deterioration of air quality." 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.