

Sam Gurule

I am a resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico and I ask that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. My family and I have lived in New Mexico for generations and NM will forever be our home. However, our future here is being put in jeopardy with this proposed air quality permit. A change to fuel cells has minimal impacts on the suffering we 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 our active and long-time nonattainment zone would be nothing short of blatant environmental racism. Our metro area is currently 16th worst in the nation for ozone pollution and we have received a failing grade on this air quality standard every single year since 2000. We are already breathing some of the most compromised air in the country. It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyper-scale air pollution into our communities. New Mexico is known for its beauty, charm, and diverse landscapes. This proposed air quality permit would put these landscapes and the surrounding areas at risk. My family's health and safety should be worth more than the profits of out-of-state corporations. The only defensible options moving forward are to deny this air permit or you must hold a public hearing in-person in Santa Teresa with a component for virtual participation. Materials and the hearing itself must be translated into Spanish and meet any other accessibility needs requested by community members.