

Matthew Ayoub

Dear NMED Air Quality Bureau,

I support approval of the air quality construction permit for the Yucca Growth Infrastructure (YGI) Microgrid that will power Project Jupiter in Doña Ana County.

Data centers are a cornerstone of the AI and digital economy that is rapidly expanding. New Mexico has a real opportunity right now to position itself as a competitive location for this growth rather than watching other states capture the benefits.

Opponents frequently overstate water use. Project Jupiter's design uses closed-loop, non-evaporative cooling systems that require only a one-time fill, with ongoing operational water use comparable to typical office or domestic needs. The Bloom Energy fuel cell technology further minimizes water consumption. The project also includes major developer commitments to regional water infrastructure improvements.

New Mexico cannot rely forever on oil and gas revenues, which currently represent a large but volatile and finite share of state funding (often 25–35% or more of general fund revenue). As production eventually declines and the energy transition continues, we need diversified economic drivers that bring stable jobs, tax base growth, and infrastructure investment.

New Mexico continues to rank poorly nationally on key economic indicators, including poverty rates and wage levels. This project is expected to generate thousands of construction jobs and more than 1,000 permanent positions, with priorities for local hiring. It can meaningfully help address economic challenges in southern New Mexico and contribute to broader statewide growth.

Approving this updated permit for the cleaner fuel cell microgrid design lets us move forward responsibly while seizing a generational opportunity in the industries that will define the coming decades. I urge NMED to approve the permit.