

Mireya Ramirez

I am a resident of Santa Fe and I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. I live here with generations of my family and this is our home. I want to continue living in a community that is safe from more environmental pollutants. That future is under threat 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. It will add 10 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution and a vague estimate of toxic emissions to our active and long-time nonattainment zone which will jeopardize the health of the community members. 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 hyperscale air pollution into our communities. Fuel cells also create hazardous waste and the fuel cell provider for this project has a history of illegally dumping this waste and hiding it for several years. Our county has and continues to face an illegal dumping epidemic with fines being the only consequence. A fine for illegal dumping does not undo damage to our air, water, and soil or the health issues us residents will face after the damage is done. The cycle of this company paying fines after illegally dumping shows that paying fines isn't enough of a consequence to stop them. Why are we allowing an out of state operation to impose a data center NM residents never asked for? The residents will be dealing with the consequences, not the people who own the company. What gives them the right to put our people and our environment at risk? The chemicals that will be released will have long term health implications on everyone in our communities. 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. Please put an end to this data center. Create strict safety measures with real consequences (like not being able to continue building or operating if they fail to meet the safety guidelines). We the people do not want this data center in our backyard. Clearly the out of state operation didn't want it in their own backyard so what gives them the right to put it in ours? There are reports of both animals and people suffering from the low frequency sounds coming from data centers and impacting their health. Please do not ignore our lives for profit.