

Kiona Watkins

Dear NMED staff, My name is Kiona Watkins. I am writing to you because I am concerned about the risks and harms Project Jupiter poses to New Mexicans and the world as a whole. I am submitting this comment to urge the New Mexico Environment Department to reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid in Doña Ana County. As a graduating senior of the class of 2026 going into college, I am constantly stressed out about the state of our world. With climate change especially, the way we live today is at major risk. This is especially true for water scarcity and AI data centers. I remember being taught in school projects on how to save water, not waste because people around the world don't have the access to water that I do. Now, I see corporations wasting all the water that 13 year old me focused and challenged others to save. They use it to cool their AI data centers. The number of people, towns, city's, who experience water scarcity is growing. This is so much more prominent in the places where data centers have been built. Water is undrinkable, brown, and/or not even available. The project's proposed fuel cell powered grid is concerning for many reasons: It would still produce a high level of greenhouse gas and toxic pollutants This technology generates toxic waste, and the process for handling this waste is still unclear. Fuel cell technology or a centralized waste system has never occurred at this scale. Surrounding communities' air will be negatively impacted by this development. I urge the NMED to outright reject YUCCA Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid. I ask the department to please hold a bilingual public hearing near the Santa Teresa community, so that residents can learn about the risks associated with fuel cell technology. Sincerely, Kiona Watkins