

Jay Choate

I am a resident of Doña Ana, and I am asking you to deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. The future of our community is under threat. Adding 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 the 16th worst in the nation for ozone pollution and has received a failing grade on this standard every single year since 2000. It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyperscale air pollution into our communities.

The pollution estimates provided cannot be trusted. This plant is 1,000 times larger than Bloom Energy's biggest existing fuel cell plant, yet estimated pollution levels are based on only three 4-hour tests of a 65 kW unit, making this plant 37,000 times bigger than the unit tested. A 15% safety margin is completely insufficient at this scale. If a unit has a 0.01% chance of failing, the odds of all 37,000 units working perfectly at the same time are just 2.47%, meaning there is a 97.53% chance the plant will experience at least one failure. The fuel cell provider also has a history of illegally dumping hazardous waste, and a fine does not undo contamination of our aquifer and soil.

My family's health and safety should be worth more than the profits of out-of-state corporations. These permits must be denied outright. If further deliberation is desired, a public hearing must be held in person in Santa Teresa with virtual participation, translated into Spanish, and meeting any other accessibility needs requested by community members.