

Demetrius Johnson

Public comment attached as PDF

Dear NMED staff,

My name is Demetrius Johnson. I live in Rio Rancho, and I am writing because I am concerned about the risks and harms Project Jupiter poses to New Mexicans. 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.

I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and have called Albuquerque/Rio Rancho home for over 2 decades. I am also a recent graduate of the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. From what I know as an Indigenous person to the Southwest region of the United States, and as a scientist, I know when technology is neither beneficial to humanity nor the environment, ecosystem, and non-human beings. As I've heard from my own people, and the Pueblo Peoples who are Indigenous to this land, we are not in an extreme drought, but a more dire PERPETUAL drought. As I write this public comment, the Rio Grande is bone dry as it has been the last few summers— a drastically different view from when I was growing up. We cannot afford to be sending water to cool data centers, nor building energy infrastructure to support such projects. NO TO DATA CENTERS AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

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 been tried at this scale.
- Surrounding communities' air will be severely impacted by this development.

I urge the NMED to 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,

Demetrius Johnson