

Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 49
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July 1, 2026

New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Public Comment in Support of Air Quality Permit Applications for Project Jupiter (Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC)

Members of the Environmental Improvement Board,

On behalf of SMART Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 49, I am writing in support of the air quality permit applications submitted by Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC for Project Jupiter in Doña Ana County.

SMART Local 49 proudly represents more than 1,000 highly skilled sheet metal workers across New Mexico and West Texas. Our members fabricate, install, test, maintain, and service the HVAC, ventilation, architectural, welding, and mechanical systems that keep commercial buildings, industrial facilities, schools, hospitals, and critical infrastructure operating safely and efficiently. We are committed to creating economic security and career opportunities for our members through world-class apprenticeship training, safe workplaces, and a lifetime of professional development.

Projects like Project Jupiter represent exactly the type of investment that creates meaningful opportunities for skilled tradespeople. Large-scale industrial facilities require highly trained sheet metal workers throughout construction and into long-term operations. From advanced HVAC systems and precision fabrication to air handling, ventilation, and mechanical systems, our members possess the skills necessary to build the complex infrastructure that modern facilities demand.

Equally important, projects of this size strengthen New Mexico's construction workforce for years to come. They provide contractors with the confidence to hire additional apprentices, expand training programs, invest in new technologies, and create career pathways that allow young people to build successful futures in the skilled trades. These are family-supporting careers that provide competitive wages, strong benefits, retirement security, and opportunities for advancement—allowing New Mexicans to remain in the communities they call home while building the infrastructure that powers our state's future.

SMART Local 49 believes that New Mexico should continue investing in the workforce that will build the next generation of infrastructure. As advanced manufacturing, energy projects, technology facilities, and industrial development continue to expand, so too does the need for highly trained craft professionals. Our apprenticeship and continuing education programs are designed to ensure that New Mexico has the skilled workforce necessary to meet those demands while maintaining the highest standards of quality, safety, and craftsmanship.



We also recognize that responsible development requires responsible environmental stewardship. Our members help build energy-efficient buildings, modern ventilation systems, and mechanical infrastructure that improve performance while meeting today's environmental standards. We support a permitting process that is transparent, science-based, and provides certainty for projects that demonstrate compliance with New Mexico's environmental requirements.

Project Jupiter represents an investment not only in Southern New Mexico, but in the skilled workforce that will build, maintain, and support facilities like this for decades to come. It creates opportunities for union tradespeople, signatory contractors, apprentices, and future generations of workers while reinforcing New Mexico's reputation as a place where quality craftsmanship and responsible development go hand in hand.

For these reasons, SMART Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 49 respectfully supports approval of the air quality permit applications submitted by Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC. We appreciate the Environmental Improvement Board's careful consideration and its commitment to protecting New Mexico's environment while supporting opportunities that strengthen our workforce, our communities, and our economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Isaiah Zemke
Business Manager / Financial Secretary
SMART Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 49

