

Suzanne Smith

I am writing to request that the NMED deny the air quality application of Bloom Energy's methane powered fuel cell plant. Dona Ana county is already negative affected by environmental pollution, and I am concerned that this proposed plant powered by methane will only the area in worse shape than it already is. The citizens of that county deserve better air quality not worse. It is a fact that Bloom Energy already has had issues with its illegal dumping of hazardous waste. And, the EPA classifies Bloom as a Large Quantity Generator of hazardous waste, fined the company \$1.16 million in 2020 for 258 unmanifested benzene shipments, and Bloom settled a 2016 federal lawsuit from a contractor who found benzene in canisters Bloom labeled non-hazardous. Approving Bloom Energy's air quality application would be denying the citizens of that county the quality of life they deserve.

A fuel cell plant of this size has NEVER been constructed before. Project Jupiter's power plant would be 1,000 times larger than the biggest fuel cell plant Bloom Energy has ever built. This fuel cell gas plant will release toxic chemical pollutants and 10 million tons of carbon dioxide into our air (see tables below)

Project Jupiter will produce more air pollution than the two consumer electrical grids that power NM families and businesses.

Developers did not propose pollution controls

They estimated the plant's pollution based on tests from a very small unit (only 65 kW) but the power plant they want to build is 37,000 times bigger.

A 15% "safety margin" was added to the numbers. Safety margins are NOT usually added if a company is confident their pollution estimates are accurate.

Estimated pollution from the plant's gas pipelines is not included

Project Jupiter's fuel cell plant will generate enormous amounts of hazardous waste containing:
Cancer-causing chemicals (benzene)

Heavy metals (lead, arsenic, chromium)

Toxic compounds (sulfur and others)

All of these poison the human body, the water, and the soil.

Bloom Energy has been fined a total of \$1.4 million dollars for illegally storing, transporting, and dumping this hazardous waste in several states AND falsifying records over many years to cover it up.

This possible private gas plant is estimated to release 10 million tons of carbon dioxide into the air per year. This amount of CO₂ is more than Southern NM and West Texas Power Grid AND the power grid for the rest of New Mexico. The private power plant would serve only a couple of out of state corporation while those power grids supply power to the people of New Mexico. Allowing this air permit would worsen the heat and quality of life in this state.

Please do not allow more pollution and environmental destruction in Dona Ana county. I ask that you deny the application.

If the permit is not denied, a public hearing needs to be held in Santa Teresa, in both English and Spanish, with an option to participate virtually.

Respectfully, Suzanne Smith Santa Fe, NM