

Theo Keeley-LeClaire

I am strongly opposed to Yucca Growth's application for new air source permits in Doña Ana county, which is already in nonattainment for air quality issues. As a resident of Albuquerque, which received a grade of F from the American Lung Association for its air quality, I have experienced firsthand the effects of poor air quality on my health and those around me. Adding to a point source of this size to a community already struggling with poor air quality is insane. Furthermore, Bloom Energy has never built a fuel cell plant even close to this size before - which significantly increases the risks that the facility will emit more pollution than anticipated. This risk, and the known risks posed by the various pollutants and the heat which will be emitted by the facility, are excessive. They should not be born by the people of Doña Ana county without their informed and explicit consent. It is time for us to stop green lighting individual facilities and start to consider the cumulative impacts of air pollution, water pollution, poverty, and heat stress on health.

I know many people struggling with long term health impacts related to the air they have no choice but to breathe - Doña Ana county doesn't deserve this. No one does. Give the residents of Doña Ana county a real chance to weigh in on this application by extending the comment period and holding a public meeting in Santa Teresa. Better yet, deny the permit application and live up to NMED's duty to protect our health and the health of our environment.