

Maya Paul

Dear New Mexico Environment Department,

My name is Maya Paul, and I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I am writing to urge the New Mexico Environment Department to reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the proposed YGI Microgrid in Doña Ana County.

As someone who believes that public institutions exist to safeguard the long-term health of our communities, I am deeply concerned that this project asks New Mexicans to assume substantial environmental and public health risks in exchange for uncertain private benefits. Decisions of this magnitude should be guided by whether they advance the broader public interest and the mission of the Environment Department to protect present and future generations.

Changing the project's name and replacing one technology with another does not change the underlying reality. The proposed facility would still emit enormous quantities of greenhouse gases while introducing fuel cell technology at a scale that has never been demonstrated in practice.

I am also troubled by the project's environmental justice implications. Communities near Santa Teresa, including schools, childcare facilities, and Tribal communities with ties to the surrounding lands, deserve meaningful participation in decisions that could affect their air quality and long-term health.

New Mexico has made important progress toward addressing climate change, and approving a project capable of producing millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year would undermine those efforts. We should not sacrifice decades of environmental progress for a project whose claimed benefits remain uncertain while its environmental costs are substantial.

As someone who has experienced firsthand how environmental and public health issues can profoundly shape quality of life, I believe we have an obligation to apply the precautionary principle when the potential consequences are so significant. Once pollution is released and infrastructure of this scale is built, the impacts cannot simply be undone. Responsible governance requires looking beyond short-term economic promises and considering the lasting effects on the people who will live with these decisions for generations.

For these reasons, I urge the New Mexico Environment Department to reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application. If the Department does not reject the application, I ask that it provide at least 60 additional days for public review and hold a bilingual, hybrid public hearing in or near Santa Teresa so that affected residents have a meaningful opportunity to participate in this process.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting New Mexico's environment and public health.

Sincerely,
Maya Paul