

Bianca Marino

I am a resident of El Paso, Texas and I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. Even though I live in El Paso, I and all the residents of our beloved city will be affected by this project. I want to stay here in my home, and start a family of my own, close to the older generations in my family and my husband's family. If this data center is built, that may no longer be an option for me. How can I raise children without clean water? Without clean air? How can I feed them if I, a taxpayer, am expected to pay for the rising utility costs that it will cause? How am I supposed to send my kids to school knowing what they are breathing in? Knowing it can cause permanent brain damage or breathing complications before they have had a chance to grow up. This project would push me to consider leaving this city for somewhere where our environment and the future of our children is a priority. That future is under threat with this proposed air quality permit. Our metro area is currently 16th worst in the nation for ozone pollution and we have received a failing grade on this air quality standard every single year since 2000. We are already breathing some of the most compromised air in the country. It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyperscale air pollution into our communities. We are tired of being exploited and lied to, and we will not stand for this abuse. The health and safety of all who live in this region should be worth more than the profits of out-of-state corporations who offer us nothing but destruction in return. The only defensible options moving forward are to deny this air permit or you must hold a public hearing in-person in Santa Teresa with a component for virtual participation. Materials and the hearing itself must be translated into Spanish and meet any other accessibility needs requested by community members.

"The public should be given an additional 60 days to review and comment on the air quality permit so community members can participate equitably.

The air quality permit application should be denied outright given Bloom Energy's history of illegal dumping hazardous waste. Approving this permit would be government-sponsored environmental racism directed at residents of Doña Ana County.

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