

Earl Cason

To the New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau: I am a resident of Doña Ana County in Southern New Mexico. I am writing to express my concerns over the air permit application for Project Jupiter. The more research I do, the more concerns I have, and I do not have time to write out all of this before the deadline. The short version, though, is that I am opposed to the approval of these air permits on both an individual level and on the level of our community. One household member has chronic illness and is immune compromised; an increase in pollution in our area will only make life harder for us. Similarly, one of our young children has asthma, and declining air quality will likely exacerbate this condition. On the level of our community, we live in a hot, dry climate and our region is very poor. There seems to be a risk that the proposed microgrid power plant could create an increase in ambient temperatures in the surrounding area due to waste heat, and I would ask that the applicants be required to analyze this impact if they have not. Many people in the vicinity of the proposed power plant are likely to already be without air conditioning; any increase in heat will cause increased hardship. On top of this, the facility's enormous carbon emissions would worsen the very heat and smog our region already struggles with during the summer.

I have concerns that the microgrid power plant plan appears to allow these companies, which seem to have considerable financial resources, to sidestep legal burdens that would require them to move toward renewable energy sources in a timely manner. According to analysis from New Energy Economy and others, this single private gas plant would emit roughly 10 million tons of CO₂ per year, about three times the emissions of the entire Southern New Mexico and West Texas power grid, and more than the cities of Las Cruces, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque combined. That grid serves half a million homes and businesses; this plant would serve a couple of out-of-state corporations. It would seem reasonable that the applicants explain why they cannot adhere to a more traditional or cleaner power generation solution that would place less of an environmental burden on our community. I do not think it is unreasonable to slow this process down and make sure due diligence is done to ensure that this project takes into consideration the well-being and health of the residents in our area. It should be possible for the applicants to meet their goals without adversely harming our community. As residents of New Mexico, we are depending on the NMED to stand up for our rights and protect us from unnecessary harm. Sincerely, Earl Cason Dona Ana County