

Hannah Edgel

I am a resident of New Mexico and I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's 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.

The carbon dioxide pollution alone will heat our atmosphere at a much faster pace and promote the formation of even more ground-level ozone. We cannot afford more intense heat. Fuel cells also create hazardous waste and the fuel cell provider for this project has a history of illegally dumping this waste and hiding it for several years. This company will likely repeat its bad habits, illegally dumping dangerous and undisclosed chemicals into our public landfills. A fine for illegal dumping does not undo damage or its spread once our aquifer and soils are contaminated. It also will not re-capture the volatile chemicals that are released into the air when hazardous waste is improperly stored and disposed of.

My family's health and safety should be worth more than the profits of out-of-state corporations. The only defensible options moving forward are to deny this air permit or to 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.