

Kevin Sanchez

Dear NMED Staff,

My name is Kevin Sanchez, and I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I am writing to express my concern regarding the risks that Project Jupiter poses to New Mexicans and to respectfully urge the New Mexico Environment Department to deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the proposed YGI Microgrid in Doña Ana County.

While Project Jupiter has been promoted for its economic benefits, I believe New Mexico has an opportunity to pursue a stronger alternative. Chris Lyons, the applicant and property owner for the Project Jupiter zoning approval, already controls a significant amount of land in Santa Teresa. This presents a unique opportunity to power the project with large-scale renewable energy infrastructure rather than an emissions-producing fuel-cell microgrid. Such an approach could create lasting workforce opportunities, strengthen New Mexico's energy future, and better protect public health, air quality, and the environment while advancing the state's long-term clean energy goals.

The proposed fuel-cell microgrid would emit carbon dioxide and other air pollutants while relying on technology at an unprecedented scale that would also generate hazardous waste requiring long-term management. Recent scientific research has linked elevated carbon dioxide exposure to measurable changes in human blood chemistry, increased oxidative stress, and cognitive effects. As the agency charged with protecting New Mexico's air quality and public health, I urge NMED to carefully consider these potential impacts on surrounding communities when evaluating this permit.

New Mexico has committed to expanding renewable electricity through the Energy Transition Act. Project Jupiter presents an opportunity to advance those goals while supporting long-term economic development through cleaner infrastructure rather than investing in a system that will continue producing emissions for decades.

If the permit is not denied, I respectfully request that NMED hold a bilingual public hearing in or near the Santa Teresa community, with a virtual participation option, so residents, neighboring Tribal governments, and other stakeholders have a meaningful opportunity to participate in this decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kevin Sanchez