

Megan Anon

I am writing to oppose the approval and continued construction of Project Jupiter. On the basis of water consumption, noise pollution, and CO₂ emissions, this project poses a direct and unacceptable threat to the health of our community and the stability of our planet.

1. **Water Usage** The developer publicly promises a cap of 20,000 gallons of potable water per day. Yet the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer has confirmed the project will require nearly one million gallons per day. This 50-fold discrepancy is not a rounding error — it is a breach of trust. The lower Rio Grande basin is already facing water bankruptcy, and farming communities are being bought out of their water rights. Approving a project that hides its true water demand will worsen water scarcity for generations of New Mexicans.
2. **CO₂ Emissions** Even after the switch to Bloom Energy fuel cells, Project Jupiter's microgrids will emit roughly 10 million tons of greenhouse gases per year — still more than Albuquerque and Las Cruces emit combined. These emissions lock in decades of climate damage at a time when every ton of CO₂ matters. A project of this magnitude cannot claim to be "clean" while emitting at a scale that rivals entire cities.
3. **Noise Pollution & Air Quality** Doña Ana County already receives a failing grade for ozone from the American Lung Association. The project's two microgrids will emit nearly 500 tons of nitrogen oxides annually — a key ozone precursor. Ozone triggers asthma attacks, worsens respiratory infections, and increases the risk of premature death. On top of that, the 24/7 industrial noise from turbines, cooling systems, and construction will degrade the quality of life for every nearby resident. The developers have split their permits to barely stay under the "major source" threshold — a clear attempt to avoid rigorous monitoring. Project Jupiter trades the health of southern New Mexico's families and the integrity of our climate for corporate profit.

This creates an unmonitored loophole that violates the Clean Air Act's mandate for continuous compliance. We know the pollution approximations provided are based on an extremely lazy testing methodology and while we were not told whether these 4 tests were even done on-site or during peak temperatures, we can safely assume the applicants cut corners here as well in an attempt to fast track this approval. As I write this, Project Jupiter is draining an undisclosed amount of water from our shared aquifer on a daily basis. Given the statistical invalidity of their pollution estimates, approving this air permit under any circumstance would be to allow this project to introduce unmitigated and undisclosed hazards into our air without consequence. Children attending Santa Teresa Elementary School will sit innocently, every day, **LESS THAN ONE MILE** from this pollution. Three other schools, an elder care center, and three public parks sit within around 4 miles of this project. Deny this air permit. Gambling with the fragile health of our children and elders would be a complete defilment of the authority vested in you.

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.