

Angelique Maestas

To the New Mexico Environment Department,

As a lifelong resident of New Mexico living in Moriarty, I am writing to strongly urge NMED to deny the air quality permit applications for the Project Jupiter data center microgrids. While out-of-state advocates debate tech infrastructure, actual residents know this project poses severe risks to our water, air, and public health. Water and clean air are non-partisan lifelines for New Mexicans, and we cannot afford to jeopardize either.

My concerns include, but are not limited to, the following critical issues:

Water Security: Groundwater depletion is a reality right now; just 30 minutes down the road from me, the Town of Estancia is in a water emergency, hauling water by the truckload. Any heavy industrial draw on our aquifers—even for closed-loop cooling systems—threatens our long-term water security.

Extreme Greenhouse Gases: Despite switching to fuel cells, public notices show this facility will still emit over 10 million tons of greenhouse gases annually—more than New Mexico's two largest cities combined. This accelerates climate change and actively degrades our environment.

Local Toxic Air Pollution: The surrounding communities already struggle with unsafe levels of air pollution. Splitting this massive power source into two separate applications appears to be a tactic to evade "major source" air monitoring requirements while still dumping tons of nitrogen oxides and hazardous VOCs into local neighborhoods.

Unproven Technology & Toxic Waste: Fuel cell microgrids have never been tested or managed at this massive scale. Furthermore, the process of filtering natural gas for these systems creates highly toxic hazardous waste, including benzene. The long-term handling and disposal plans for this waste remain completely unclear.

New Mexico communities should not be treated as a corporate testing ground for massive pollution and resource depletion. I urge NMED to protect our residents, our air, and our aquifers by denying these permits.

Thank you,
Angelique Maestas
Moriarty, New Mexico