

Marlene Alvarado

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the air quality permit applications submitted by YUCCA Growth Infrastructure LLC for the proposed microgrid, which is intended to power the Project Jupiter data center campus in Santa Teresa. I urge the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to deny these permits and to UPHOLD its mission of protecting public health and the environment for current and future generations of New Mexicans.

This project is using DECEPTIVE permitting strategy. This project will be functioning as one large fossil fuel source. Our region is already struggling with air quality concerns. Southern New Mexico and the Paso del Norte region experience ongoing challenges related to ozone pollution. Approving this bloom energy fuel cells and calling it "zero-emission" is blatant LIES. The project would release significant amounts of carbon dioxide which will worsen the conditions our region already experiences. It's contribution to the environment would increase the risk of asthma, other respiratory illnesses, and cardiovascular problems. Especially for children, the elderly, and other vulnerable members of our community. I am deeply concerned about the project's contribution to climate change. Project Jupiter is expected to produce 10.1 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, according to public reporting. We are supposed to be reducing greenhouse gases, NOT adding to it. This level of pollution conflicts with New Mexico's climate goals and commitments to transitioning toward cleaner energy sources.

The proposed alternative fuel cell technologies DO NOT offer a meaningful solution. They can be presented as a "cleaner option" or "zero-emission" but they still carry environmental risks, including greenhouse gas emissions, thermal concerns, and hazardous waste.

Secretary James Kenney, EPD Director Michelle Milano, and NMED have a responsibility to ensure that environmental regulations are applied transparently and that any decision prioritizes the health and well-being of New Mexicans over corporate convenience. New Mexico should not be forced to choose between economic development and the health of its residents. We should not sacrifice our air quality, our communities, or our desert environment to support out-of-state corporate interests. Kenney, Milano, and NMED should not sacrifice the Indigenous communities and their well-being in the region.

I DEMAND that Secretary James Kenney, EPD Director Michelle Milano, and the New Mexico Environment Department DENY this permit application and ensure that any public hearings related to this project are transparent, accessible, and offered in both English and Spanish so that all impacted residents of Doña Ana County have the opportunity to participate.