

Joseph Burchett

I strongly urge the NMED to deny this air quality permit. For one, this is yet another attempt at deception by Project Jupiter. As a Doña Ana county resident, I attended local town hall events, etc., to learn more information directly from the developers. Unfortunately, the public and civil leaders alike have been met with hugely consequential omissions every step of the way, largely surrounding the unprecedented amounts of power required for the data center. Water usage estimates, for example, focused on the 'office building', where the computer systems would be housed. Nothing about the unfathomable-capacity new power plant needed to power it all.

As it turns out, the plant would produce over 10 million tons of greenhouse gases per year, 3x the entire El Paso Electric emissions in 2024! We are still yet to get an honest estimate of actual water usage for the microgrid. In other words, the environmental impact of 3-4 businesses will exceed that of the company providing power to 500,000 customers. While some high-paying jobs are promised, this entirely rests on a heavily inflated AI market that many economic analysts see as a bubble.

Three days ago, I encountered a nice person in a Project Jupiter t-shirt while leaving the grocery store. I was told that they were collecting public input, so I gladly provided my perspective as well as my contact information. This info was going to be relayed onto the state and I was to receive a confirmation email to make sure I was the one to submit it. I never received such an email and, of course, my comment did not appear here upon checking.

Again, I strongly urge the NMED to deny this application and give Project Jupiter some much needed scrutiny.