

Anonymous Anonymous

1st comment:

"I am a resident of Minnesota. I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. Though I do not live in the area, this is an issue that impacts our relatives and contributes to the climate crisis. The future for our children and children's children and seven generations ahead - is under threat with this proposed air quality permit. A change to fuel cells has minimal impacts on the suffering we will endure as a result of the gas plant's air pollution. To add 10 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution and a vague estimate of toxic emissions to our active and long-time nonattainment zone would be nothing short of blatant environmental racism. BIPOC and low income communities often suffer the consequences more frequently from climate change induced disasters. The metro area there is currently 16th worst in the nation for ozone pollution and has received a failing grade on this air quality standard every single year since 2000. People are already breathing some of the most compromised air in the country. It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyperscale air pollution into our communities.

The carbon dioxide pollution alone will heat our atmosphere at a much faster pace and promote the formation of even more ground-level ozone. Families in the area are suffering from serious health complications like seizures. We cannot afford more intense heat or pollution and resource extraction from AI data centers or fuel cells. The other toxic air pollutants are extremely dangerous—many of them at very low levels. How are people supposed to send their kids to school knowing what they are breathing in? Or elders traveling? Knowing it can cause permanent brain damage or breathing complications.

Fuel cells also create hazardous waste and the fuel cell provider for this project has a history of illegally dumping this waste and hiding it for several years. This company will likely repeat its bad habits. There is no sustainable way of extraction."

2nd comment:

"And illegally dumping dangerous and undisclosed chemicals into our public landfills, and we will just have to wait until somebody notices? Our county has and continues to face an illegal dumping epidemic so how can we be sure that these systemic oversight failures we have locally won't continue and expand to include this dangerous and experimental fuel cell operation. A fine for illegal dumping does not undo damage or its spread once our aquifer and soils are contaminated. It also will not re-capture the volatile chemicals that are released into the air when hazardous waste is improperly stored and disposed of. People's health and safety should be worth more than the profits of out-of-state corporations. The only defensible options moving forward are to deny this air permit or you must hold a public hearing in-person in Santa Teresa with a component for virtual participation. Materials and the hearing itself must be translated into Spanish and meet any other accessibility needs requested by community members. Such a sign language interpreters.

I need to add an important story of the town of Picher Oklahoma. Once a booming mining town that was a major export for lead and zinc and helped supply the U.S army in WWII. The area is now a complete ghost town. It was declared a superfund site by the EPA while citizen STILL lived there. Overtime the huge piles of chat left outside the mines blew lead and zinc dust into citizen's homes and contaminated their waters. In the 90s and 2000s, 40% of children tested positive for lead poisoning. The final straw for eviction was the 300 miles of abandoned hollowed out mines that caused great risk of sink holes that could swallow the entire town at any moment. This story while devastating serves as a warning for what happens when we extract and extract with no regard for the consequences on the environment and our people. Don't let New Mexico become the next

Picher Oklahoma. AI data centers will only extract the community's water."