

Angelica Rubio

I am State Representative Angelica Rubio, and I represent House District 35 in Doña Ana County, and I urge NMED to deny the Yucca Growth Infrastructure air quality construction permit application.

New Mexico has been here before. Our communities have watched extractive industries make promises, receive approvals, and leave our communities holding the environmental and economic costs. Project Jupiter is no different, and the Doña Ana County Commission approved this project in less than two weeks with incomplete documents and no meaningful community process. Frontline communities here in Doña Ana, specifically Santa Teresa, Sunland Park, and Chaparral were never given a real seat at the table before construction began.

This permit application is another attempt to avoid accountability. Switching from natural gas turbines to Bloom Energy fuel cells does not solve the problem, and their own documents show emissions still exceeding the combined output of Albuquerque AND Las Cruces. This technology has never been deployed at this scale anywhere in the world, and once again—New Mexicans, and their water, land and air, are left to be the sacrificial lambs. NMED would be approving an experiment in communities that have already been left out of every decision that affects them, that has been our legacy. Don't let this continue.

I am also deeply troubled by reports that Project Jupiter canvassers submitted public comments using New Mexico residents' names without their consent. This is horrifying, and I urge NMED to investigate and disregard any fraudulent comments in this permitting decision.

No industry should be approved in New Mexico until frontline communities have been meaningfully consulted and their concerns addressed. That standard was not met here. Deny this permit.

Angelica Rubio
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