

Anonymous Anonymous

I am writing to urge the NMED to reject YUCCA Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid. The public should be given an additional 60 days to review and comment on the air quality permit so that community members can participate equitably. Even prior to the current AI and data center boom, New Mexico's ecosystems have been jeopardized by pollutants, contamination of air and water, and periods of water scarcity. This year, the Rio Grande ran dry earlier and for longer than I have witnessed it in the past. Last year I scooped handfuls of endangered silvery minnows with my hands from drying puddles to the few still-flowing streams in the river bed. This year, I saw no silvery minnows, bats or beavers. On the dried river last week, I saw the skeletons of fish. I saw the sun-dried carcass of a baby soft shelled turtle. Today, it is all dried sand. New Mexican people and their ecosystems and waterways do not need the further strain of excess water use, pollution and contamination. I urge you to deny the air quality application, especially given Bloom Energy's history of dumping hazardous waste illegally. If the permit is not denied, a public hearing needs to be held in Santa Teresa, with an option to participate virtually. Approving this permit would be willfully enabling government-sponsored environmental racism, as residents of Doña Ana County are already disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution.