

# Mentaunkhtikes Williams

Dear NMED staff,

My name is Mentaunkhtikes Williams. I am a New Mexico resident, living at zip code 87123, and I am writing because I am concerned about the risks and harms Project Jupiter poses to New Mexicans. I urge the New Mexico Environment Department to reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid in Doña Ana County.

I am a biology major at UNM and I've been living in New Mexico for about 3 years now. When I took ecology, I learned how precious—but threatened—all of our ecosystems and natural resources are. I've seen, heard, and felt the fear of watching the deteriorating state of the Rio Grande and the irregular changes in temperature and weather we see with each season. To see how wasteful and resource-consuming A.I mega data centers are and to think that even just one is being welcomed here makes me sick with dread.

The project's proposed fuel cell powered grid is concerning for many reasons:

- \* It would still have a high output of greenhouse gas and toxic pollutants
- \* The tech produces toxic waste and the Yucca's process for handling said waste is unclear (this is especially concerning considering Bloom Energy, which will be providing the fuel cells, was fined twice in the same year, 2020, by two different states, PA and MD, for improper hazardous waste handling)
- \* Fuel cell technology has never occurred at the scale being proposed for Project Jupiter. It is 1000 times larger than the largest existing Bloom fuel cell installation.
- \* Most alarmingly, surrounding communities' air and health will bear the environmental consequences of this insidious project. Santa Teresa Elementary and High School are located within five miles of the site of Project Jupiter. 96% of students at the high school are hispanic. Several tribal governments, like Tortugas Pueblo and Yselta del Sur, have landholdings in Doña Ana county and they haven't been properly notified of the application request. This is blatant environmental injustice, children will be caught in the crosshairs, and it needs to stop.

The NMED must outright reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid. If you do not reject the permit, please hold a bilingual public hearing near the Santa Teresa community, so that residents can learn about the risks associated with fuel cell technology and decide for themselves whether they want this planted in their home.

Sincerely,

Mentaunkhtikes Williams