

Cadence Petty

Dear NMED Staff, My name is Cadence. I am a resident of Colorado, living in Colorado Springs. I am writing this to address and bring awareness to my concerns regarding the environmental dangers that Project Jupiter presents to not only residents of New Mexico, but also the entirety of the United States as a whole. My intentions of submitting this comment are to urge the New Mexico Environment Department to reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid in Doña Ana County. As I am not a resident of New Mexico, I understand my place of residency may produce skepticism within my stance on Project Jupiter. However, it is critical that I bring to light that the development of Project Jupiter would span harmful effects outside of the state of New Mexico. It poses a great concern to the lives of the American people, as it will make a detrimental impact to the climate and the ecosystem as a whole. The fuel cell powered grid proposed in Project Jupiter has accumulated a variety of evidence and reasoning behind many people's concerns: While the plant's fuel cells do run on hydrogen, which gives the impression of sustainability and protection against damaging the environment, it must interact with hydrogen gas in order to obtain pure hydrogen. When interacting with hydrogen gas, it must separate hydrogen from natural gases, thus emitting greenhouse gases as a byproduct of this process. So, the plant's use of hydrogen fuel cells is not as sustainable as it is presented to be. Considering this, the power plant will produce up to 10 million greenhouse gases emissions into the environment every year. This will have an impact on people even outside of New Mexico, as it further contributes to global warming and its consequential environmental impacts. Furthermore, fuel cells partake in generating hazardous waste. Fuel cells filter out any contaminants found during production into the methane stream, including contaminants like sulfur. As the contaminants are filtered out, they accumulate as hazardous waste. This waste further contributes to the toxic emissions that are produced by the power plant, since the gases from the hazardous waste settle into the ecosystem through plants and then emit into the environment through precipitation. With climate change continuing to be in place within the ecosystem, it will soon be the cause of heat-related illnesses like heat stroke, heart attacks, strokes, and kidney problems; which, can even result in fatal outcomes. It also increases the spread of disease through species such as mosquitoes. As the temperature increases, the areas of where mosquitoes reside geographically will increase and will put people at risk of contracting the diseases spread by these insects. It is evident that these fuel cells make a detrimental impact to the ecosystem, continuing to perpetuate irreversible damage and reverse years of actions that have been made to end climate change. I urge NMED to outright reject YUCCA Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid. If NMED does not reject the application, I ask that the department holds a bilingual hybrid public hearing near the Santa Teresa community, in order to educate residents on the risks that are presented with fuel cell technology. I also ask that the department holds 60 days of additional time for the public to review and comment on the application to ensure that everyone is able to contribute their input on the matter. Sincerely, Cadence Petty