

Anonymous Anonymous

I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. The future of not only New Mexico but of the whole country and the rest of the world is under threat with this proposed air quality permit. A change to fuel cells has minimal impacts on the suffering that will be endured 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 the active and long-time nonattainment zone would be nothing short of blatant environmental racism. The metro area is already 16th worst in the nation for ozone pollution and it has received a failing grade on this air quality standard every single year since 2000. It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyperscale air pollution when there is already an unresolved problem with contaminated air. The carbon dioxide pollution alone will heat the atmosphere at a much faster pace and promote the formation of even more ground-level ozone. The people and the rest of the world cannot afford more intense heat as global warming keeps rising. We only have 3 years until it hits the 1.5C threshold and there is no reversing the damages of climate change and that point. What will happen then when projects like this help end the human race? In this area, there are already toxic air pollutants which are extremely dangerous—many of them at very low levels. How are people supposed to go out knowing the kind of air they're breathing? Knowing it can cause permanent brain damage or breathing complications. The safety of the community should be worth more than the profits of out-of-state corporations. Furthermore, 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, illegally dumping dangerous and undisclosed chemicals into public landfills, and will someone notice? A fine for illegal dumping does not undo damage or its spread once our aquifer and soils are contaminated. 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.