

Robert Wojcikiewicz

As a resident of Las Cruces New Mexico I am asking that you deny yucca infrastructure's air quality permit. Adding 10 million tons of carbon dioxide to our air along with a vague estimate of toxic emissions to our active and long-term non-attainment zone would be a blatant miscarriage of environmental justice. As an environmental researcher who specializes in sediment transport studies in this region, I am acutely aware of both how generally unhealthy it is to live here due to air quality, and how those health impacts disproportionately impact lower income communities in this region. Approving this air quality permit will therefore exacerbate an existing public health crisis in Doña Ana County.

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 our public landfills. A fine for illegal dumping does not undo damage or its spread once our aquifer and soils are contaminated. It also will not re-capture the volatile chemicals that are released into the air when hazardous waste is improperly stored and disposed of.