

Nyssa Licari

Dear NMED staff, My name is Nyssa Licari. I am a New Mexico resident, living in Albuquerque, and I am writing because I am concerned about the risks and harms Project Jupiter poses to New Mexicans. I am submitting this comment 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 for the following reasons: Project Jupiter's power plant will release up to 10 million tons of climate-warming greenhouse gasses every year. This would make a mockery of NM's climate goals, and erase most of the climate progress we have made in the last two decades. This is more greenhouse gas pollution than New Mexico's three largest cities combined – Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe. The proposed "micro" grid has a 2,462 MW Capacity. For comparison, the El Paso Electric grid is about 2,900 megawatts (which services NM's second largest city, Las Cruces) and the entire PNM grid is about 2,700 megawatts. Each of those grids include a substantial amount of renewable energy sources and each of those grids has lower total greenhouse gas pollution than just Project Jupiter's proposed power plant. Santa Teresa Elementary and High School are located within five miles of this project site. 96% of students at the high school are hispanic. There are also day care centers located within miles of this site. This is an environmental injustice to these children who are especially vulnerable to the health impacts of NOX, CO, and VOCs. The Chihuahuan Desert borderlands are not a barren dump site for Bloom Technologies to test their experimental technologies. Santa Teresa should not serve as ground zero for Bloom Technologies to scale their toxic technologies. Tribal governments like Tortugas Pueblo, Ysleta del Sur, and Pueblo communities with landholdings in Doña Ana county near the site have not been properly notified of this air permit application request. NMED's mission is "to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations." Granting these permit applications is a direct contradiction to that mission. What happened to the public hearing the state Air Quality Bureau recommended on the previous applications that the industry has since redacted? NMED should not overlook the overwhelming community concern expressed in the last public comment period, which still applies to this same project. I urge the NMED to outright reject YUCCA Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid. If NMED does not reject the permit, I ask the department to please hold a bilingual hybrid public hearing near the Santa Teresa community, so that residents can learn about the risks associated with fuel cell technology. NMED should give the public 60 days of additional time to review and comment on the Application to ensure everyone can meaningfully comment and participate. Sincerely, Nyssa Licari