

Walker Laughlin

I urge NMED to REJECT Yucca Growth Infrastructure's LLC-YGI Microgrid Air Quality Construction Permit Application. Despite this revised permit application the Project Jupiter Data Center will still emit more carbon dioxide annually than Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe combined. It will also spew 124 tons per year of VOCs, dangerous pollutants that threaten the health of vulnerable communities. Allowing this air permit application to move forward would mean jeopardizing public health and reversing decades of progress towards the state's emissions reduction goals.

The project developers promise local economic development, but they do not deserve our trust. Source NM reports that the project developers have been collecting the names and emails of New Mexico residents, many of whom oppose this air permit application, and using their information to post comments in support of it -- against the will of these residents. This deceptive behavior challenges the credibility of Yucca Growth Infrastructure and casts doubt on the claims in this air permit application.

NMED is entrusted by New Mexicans to protect public health and the natural beauty of the state by preventing the deterioration of air quality. NMED must stay true to its mission and reject Yucca Growth Infrastructure's LLC-YGI Microgrid Air Quality Construction Permit Application.



New Mexico residents say their names used without permission to support Project Jupiter data center

Letters supporting project appeared on state comment portal after Project Jupiter canvassers approached residents in at least three NM cities

BY **JOSHUA BOWLING** - JUNE 30, 2026 12:06 PM



📷 A rendering of Project Jupiter with a public comment in which an Albuquerque resident writes that prior comments in favor of the development made under her name were submitted without her knowledge or consent. (Rendering courtesy of STACK Infrastructure)

Residents from three New Mexico cities say their names falsely appeared on letters urging state environment officials to approve air quality permits for the controversial [Project Jupiter](#) data center after they were approached by canvassers for the project.

Residents in Las Cruces, Albuquerque and Rio Rancho in interviews said that canvassers in Project Jupiter T-shirts approached them while they were pumping gas or leaving the grocery store and asked for their opinions on the \$165 billion data center development under development in southern New Mexico, which is expected to support Oracle's and OpenAI's operations.

All three recalled telling the canvassers either that they were skeptical or outright opposed to the development, citing concerns about its water use and environmental impact. None of them voiced support for the project, they said.

As each of them ended the conversations, they said the canvassers asked for their email addresses so they could provide more details about Project Jupiter.

All three told Source NM that soon afterward they received emails thanking them for making public comments on the New Mexico Environment Department's online portal. The public [comment period for project developer Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit application](#) ends July 6.

If approved, the air quality permit would allow developers [to use fuel cell technology to power the data center campus](#). While the proposal is anticipated to emit fewer pollutants than the developers' [previous proposal to build natural gas plants](#), documents show it would still emit more greenhouse gases than Albuquerque and Las Cruces – New Mexico's two largest cities – combined.

In each case, the residents' names appeared at the bottom of identical form letters.

"I am writing to express my support for Project Jupiter, which I believe offers significant benefits for our community," the letter reads, citing the development's promised 4,000 construction jobs, 1,500 "project-supported" jobs and multimillion-dollar investments in local schools and drinking water systems. "I urge the New Mexico Environment Department to approve this important project."

One such letter was signed by Las Cruces resident Johnny Acosta. However, Acosta recalled to Source NM that he told canvassers who approached him while he was pumping gas that he had deep reservations about the project.

"I gave her my email and the next day that's when I saw that whole thing, like I had written it," he said. "How do people do that?"

Acosta is not alone. Albuquerque resident Dawn Martinez told Source NM she had a similar experience leaving the grocery store last week. She said a man in a Project Jupiter T-shirt asked her for her opinions on the development, and she told him she opposed it on the grounds of water usage and environmental impact.

She said the man then asked her if she would rate their conversation positively and asked for her email address.

"I was assuming I was going to get a survey or something in my email," she told Source NM.

What she received instead was the same letter bearing Acosta's name.

"It basically was like, 'I'm Dawn Martinez, in support of Project Jupiter,'" she said.

Katie Yelin, a Rio Rancho resident who recently moved across the river from Albuquerque, recounted a nearly identical experience. There are several similar cases found in the Environment Department's [online public comment portal](#), where residents have written to clarify that supportive comments bearing their names were submitted without their knowledge or consent.

New Mexico Environment Department spokesperson Drew Goretzka in an email to Source NM said department officials were unaware of the allegedly falsified letters until Monday – when Source NM reached out to the department for comment.

NMED "does not condone these actions and is looking into the issue," he wrote.

If people see public comments made under their names without their knowledge or consent, Goretzka urged them to immediately alert the department via Pamela.Jones@env.nm.gov.

Pushes to sway public opinion in favor of Project Jupiter have come under scrutiny in recent months.

The State Ethics Commission in April [filed a lawsuit](#) against an anonymous company behind a pro-Project Jupiter ad campaign and accused it of violating the state Lobbyist Regulation Act after [Source NM revealed](#) the mailers' out-of-state origins.

Developers also [converted a long-awaited town hall](#) in Sunland Park into a career fair earlier in June, which prompted hours of irate public comment at a recent Doña Ana Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Also in June, Source NM revealed that the firm behind the state's award-winning Medicaid re-enrollment social media campaign was recruiting Instagram influencers to promote Project Jupiter.

"What was so frustrating to me was for him to lie and to misrepresent 'do you mind giving me your information?'" Martinez, the Albuquerque resident, said about her interaction with the canvasser. "You can't trust anything these people say. Who knows how many of these comments they've submitted aren't right?"

Several of the companies involved with Project Jupiter, including OpenAI, STACK Infrastructure, Bloom Energy, BorderPlex Digital Assets and Yucca Growth Infrastructure, did not respond to requests for comment.

An Oracle spokesperson in a statement acknowledged its use of canvassers in New Mexico, but

denied any wrongdoing.

“Project Jupiter representatives are conducting community outreach to answer questions, provide information and encourage participation in the public permitting process. Our outreach teams are supervised, clearly identified as Project Jupiter representatives, and trained to ensure that any public comment is submitted only by residents who voluntarily choose to do so,” the spokesperson wrote. “We do not authorize or condone the submission of public comments without a resident’s knowledge and consent, and residents who are not ready to submit a comment are provided printed educational materials so they can review the information on their own.”



Court filing appears to contradict Project Jupiter's promised job figures

Critics say changing figures keep community in the dark

BY **JOSHUA BOWLING** - MARCH 23, 2026 2:45 PM



 The road to the cordoned-off Project Jupiter data center construction site as seen on March 22, 2026. (Joshua Bowling/Source NM)

A recent court filing from the tech giant Oracle says Project Jupiter, the massive data center campus under construction in Southern New Mexico, will create “at least 800” jobs once it’s built – an apparent reduction of nearly 50% from what developers have publicly promised.

When Doña Ana County commissioners [approved the development in September](#), they did so based on [documents](#) that projected approximately 750 full-time jobs with salaries of \$75,000 to \$100,000. Since then, Project Jupiter’s website and [the anonymous Elevate New Mexico advertising campaign](#) have promised increased figures. As of Monday morning, the development’s [website](#) promised “more than 4,000+ construction jobs and up to 1,500+ jobs onsite or in the County once construction is complete.”

But a new court filing from Oracle, which plans to use the data center campus along with OpenAI, says Project Jupiter is anticipated to create at least 2,500 construction jobs, as well as at least 800 “direct operational jobs” after construction ends and an unspecified number of “indirect jobs through increased customers for local businesses.” Currently, 1,250 people work at the project site, according to the filing.

The new figures come via a motion to intervene that Oracle filed last week in the New Mexico Environmental Law Center’s February lawsuit, which alleges that Doña Ana County commissioners violated the state’s Open Meetings Act when they “abruptly” paused a heated September meeting and met behind closed doors.

Oracle’s filing indicates a significant reduction in developers’ plans to hire in the area, Kacey Hovden, the New Mexico Environmental Law Center attorney leading the case, said.

“No one knows what Project Jupiter is actually going to bring to the community because the numbers change month to month,” Hovden told Source NM.

Even as county commissioners voted on the development in September, it wasn’t immediately clear how many jobs it would bring to the area. One document before county officials – which still had a grey watermark with the word “draft” written across it – said “approximately” 700 full-time employees would work at the development by Dec. 31, 2031. The [MOU](#) between the county and Project Jupiter – which also had the “draft” watermark – ensured “a minimum of 750 new full-time equivalent jobs and 50 part-time jobs within three years of commencing operation.”

In the months since then, the development’s public website changed to reflect that even more jobs were on the way. A spokesperson for the New Mexico Economic Development Department said the state’s latest figures show developers intend to create 750 jobs, but noted that the figure is likely outdated.

An [archived version](#) of Project Jupiter’s website shows that in September, the development projected “more than 2,500+ construction jobs and 750+ permanent jobs.” Archived versions of the site show that by March, the site updated to project more than 4,000 construction jobs and more than 1,500 jobs after construction.

Mailers in [the anonymous Elevate New Mexico campaign](#) promised “thousands of high-paying careers.”

To critics like Hovden, the changing numbers appear unreliable.

“There’s no hard statistics behind these projections they’re providing,” Hovden said. “They just doubled it to 1,500 a month-and-a-half ago, or so, and they’re taking it back again.”

Oracle's New Mexico attorneys and OpenAI did not respond to requests for comment. In an email, an Oracle spokesperson referred Source NM to [a January blog post](#) about the "boost" Project Jupiter will bring to Doña Ana County, such as creating "up to 1,500 jobs onsite or in the county once construction is complete." The post does not address the discrepancy in the job projections and Oracle did not respond to a subsequent request for comment seeking clarification.