

Mykayla Trujillo Hanawalt

Dear NMED staff,

My name is Mykayla Trujillo Hanawalt. I am a resident of 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.

As someone fortunate enough to have grown up throughout Northern New Mexico, I consider my home to be one of the world's most beautiful places. From the mountains to the mesas, the fresh air, flora and fauna, the seasons, culture, food, and at the root of it all, the sacred sources of water are what make these lands special to so many. I am personally concerned about this mega A.I. Data Center because this development will directly impact everything we call home as New Mexicans. This year is already hot and dry, the Rio Grande River is dry, the bills to cool my home are increasing, and a mega-drought is on our doorstep. Approving Project Jupiter's power plant is the most nonsensical decision NMED could make considering their mission, "to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations."

I find it concerning that Project Jupiter's power plant will contribute to climate-warming by releasing up to 10 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year. The toxic waste from fuel cells will also further contribute to the pollution of our air, and it is an elementary level observation to understand that anything that enters the environment will eventually cycle into all other areas, like our water and soil. Improper hazardous waste handling has already happened in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and I do not trust that those behind the business of this development care about New Mexican's health and safety.

I also find it alarming that the tribal governments of Tortugas Pueblo, Ysleta del Sur, and Pueblo communities with landholdings in Dona Ana County near the site have not been properly notified of this air permit application request. This decision affects this state and surrounding areas beyond our borders social and environmental ecosystems. If NMED's claim to care about protecting a healthy environment for future generations holds any value, then NMED must take into account Santa Teresa Elementary and High School, comprised of 96% Hispanic students and families, which are located within five miles of this project's site, as well as the surrounding day care centers. These are some of our most vulnerable populations to the health impacts of the NOX, CO, and VOC's that would be released. New Mexico is not a barren dump to be an experimental testing site, and the people who live here deserve to be healthy and meaningfully protected from any entity that threatens our health.

The project's proposed fuel cell powered grid is concerning for many reasons:

- It would still produce a high level of greenhouse gas and toxic pollutants.
- This technology generates toxic waste, and the process for handling this waste is still unclear.
- Fuel cell technology or a centralized waste system has never been tried at this scale.
- Surrounding communities' air will be severely impacted by this development.

I urge the NMED to reject YUCCA Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC's air permit application for the YGI Microgrid. I ask the department to please hold a bilingual public hearing near the Santa Teresa community, so that residents can learn about the risks associated with fuel cell technology.

Sincerely,

Mykayla Trujillo Hanawalt