

Nida n/a

I am asking that you deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit. I live here with many generations of my family and this is our home. I want to continue raising my children here knowing they have a safe and secure future. That future is under threat with this proposed air quality permit. A change to fuel cells has minimal impacts on the suffering we will endure 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 our active and long-time nonattainment zone would be nothing short of blatant environmental racism. Our metro area is currently 16th worst in the nation for ozone pollution and we have received a failing grade on this air quality standard every single year since 2000. We are already breathing some of the most compromised air in the country. It is unacceptable to invite a new source of hyperscale air pollution into our communities. 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, and we will just have to wait until somebody notices? Our county has and continues to face an illegal dumping epidemic so how can I be sure that these systemic oversight failures we have locally won't continue and expand to include this dangerous and experimental fuel cell operation. 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. Though approximations of annual air pollution were provided, the testing used an extremely weak methodology leaving us, ultimately, with pseudoscientific guesses that have large margins of error. Estimated pollution levels for this gas-powered fuel cell plant are based on only three 4-hour pollution tests from a very small unit (only 65 kW). This is a far cry from thousands of sweltering fuel cells operating 24/7 at maximum output in close proximity, all in the scorching heat of our open desert. The lack of rigorous testing at even this small of a scale is lazy and very concerning, especially given that the gas power plant Yucca Growth Infrastructure wants to build is 37,000 times bigger than this unit. We know the pollution approximations provided are based on an extremely lazy testing methodology and while we were not told whether these 4 tests were even done on-site or during peak temperatures, we can safely assume the applicants cut corners here as well in an attempt to fast track this approval. As I write this, Project Jupiter is draining an undisclosed amount of water from our shared aquifer on a daily basis. Given the statistical invalidity of their pollution estimates, approving this air permit under any circumstance would be to allow this project to introduce unmitigated and undisclosed hazards into our air without consequence. Children attending Santa Teresa Elementary School will sit innocently, every day, LESS THAN ONE MILE from this pollution. Three other schools, an elder care center, and three public parks sit within around 4 miles of this project. Deny this air permit. Gambling with the fragile health of our children and elders would be a complete defilement of the authority vested in you.