

Cipri Salazar

I am a resident of Albuquerque, NM 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 my family, my nieces and nephews 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. The carbon dioxide pollution alone will heat our atmosphere at a much faster pace and promote the formation of even more ground-level ozone. We cannot afford more intense heat. The other toxic air pollutants are extremely dangerous—many of them at very low levels. How can anyone enjoy the outdoors. Knowing it can cause permanent brain damage or breathing complications before they have had a chance to grow up. 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 information. Air quality is just the tip of the iceberg when it's comes to concerns with this project. Water quality is also a big issue. New Mexico has been in a drought and with the implementation of this project it will surely cause issues and escalate the drought further in less time.