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I am writing to strongly urge the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to deny the new air pollution permit application submitted by Yucca Growth Infrastructure (YGI), formerly Acoma, LLC, for the powerplant intended to support Project Jupiter in Santa Teresa.

More than 7,000 public comments were submitted during the last permitting process, demonstrating widespread concern and opposition from New Mexicans. That level of public response reflects the seriousness of this project's potential impacts and the community's deep concern about air quality, water use, and public health in Doña Ana County.

Although YGI withdrew its original permit applications and submitted a revised application, the core concerns remain unchanged. This project is still fundamentally dependent on natural gas and still poses major environmental and public health risks.

The previous East and West Microgrid applications would have allowed two natural gas power plants emitting approximately 13 million tons of greenhouse gases annually. The revised application still allows emissions of roughly 10 million tons of greenhouse gases per year, along with more than 100 tons annually of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and carbon monoxide (CO)—pollutants that directly contribute to worsening ozone levels, respiratory illness, and other serious health impacts.

This is especially alarming because Doña Ana County already carries a disproportionate pollution burden compared with much of New Mexico. Adding another major industrial emissions source to an already overburdened community raises serious environmental justice concerns and creates a clear example of environmental racism, where frontline communities bear a disproportionate share of environmental harm for projects from which they may receive little meaningful benefit.

YGI's attempt to present Bloom Energy's Solid Oxide Fuel Cells as a "green" solution deserves close scrutiny. These fuel cells still rely on natural gas. Rebranding fossil fuel infrastructure with cleaner-sounding technology does not eliminate emissions, water consumption, or hazardous waste generation.

NMED must also evaluate this project in the context of New Mexico's worsening climate and water crisis. According to drought monitoring from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), much of New Mexico has experienced severe drought conditions throughout 2026. Earlier this year, approximately 94% of the state was classified in moderate drought or worse, nearly 85% in severe drought or worse, and almost 30% in extreme drought. NOAA has warned that low snowpack, persistent heat, and long-term hydrologic drought are reducing water availability across the Southwest. NMED must evaluate this project not only through the lens of current weekly drought maps, but through the reality of long-term water scarcity in southern New Mexico.

Although drought conditions fluctuate seasonally, Doña Ana County remains part of an arid desert region already facing chronic water stress, rising temperatures, declining groundwater supplies, and increasing pressure on the Rio Grande. NOAA drought monitoring shows tens of thousands of county residents continue to live under drought conditions, while agricultural lands and livestock

are already affected by water shortages. In a region where every gallon matters, approving a massive AI data center and gas-powered microgrid requiring millions of gallons of water for power generation and cooling would place additional strain on already limited water resources.

In that context, approving a massive AI data center and gas-powered microgrid requiring millions of gallons of water for energy production and cooling is deeply irresponsible. Water in New Mexico is not an unlimited industrial resource. It is a finite public necessity essential for residents, agriculture, wildlife, and future generations.

It is difficult to justify allowing one of the most water-intensive forms of industrial development—massive AI infrastructure—to expand in a state facing chronic drought, record heat, increasing wildfire risk, and long-term water insecurity. New Mexicans are already being asked to adapt to scarcity; corporations should not be allowed to worsen that scarcity while marketing fossil-fuel-powered infrastructure as innovation or sustainability.

I am also deeply concerned about hazardous waste generated by Bloom Energy's fuel cell technology. Bloom has faced enforcement actions by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for improper waste disposal. Any hazardous solid waste generated by this facility including waste potentially sent to the Sunland Park Landfill creates additional risks of soil and groundwater contamination for nearby communities.

This project raises broader concerns about whether New Mexico is being asked to sacrifice clean air, limited water supplies, and community health to support energy-intensive AI infrastructure whose benefits to local residents remain unclear. Reports that Project Jupiter developers have failed to comply with required quarterly jobs reporting only deepen concerns about transparency and accountability.

I respectfully request that NMED:

Deny YGI's permit application unless the company provides complete, transparent, and independently verifiable information regarding emissions, water usage, and hazardous waste.

Require a full cumulative environmental justice analysis to determine whether this project imposes disproportionate harm on Doña Ana County residents.

Grant the public an additional 60 days to review and comment on this revised application.

If the permit is not denied, hold a public hearing in Santa Teresa in both English and Spanish, with hybrid participation options to ensure meaningful public participation.

New Mexico should not allow massive AI infrastructure to move forward under the false promise of "green energy" when the underlying system remains dependent on fossil fuels and threatens already vulnerable communities.

I urge NMED to prioritize public health, environmental justice, water security, and long-term sustainability over corporate speed and marketing narratives.

Please reject this permit application.