

Kelsey Erickson

I strongly urge you to deny this air quality permit to Yucca Growth Infrastructure. Their proposed Project Jupiter boasts profits only for tech companies, it serves no long-term benefits to the residents of Doña Ana County nor any other New Mexico residents who bear the brunt of increased emissions and reduced water supplies in the state. There is not sufficient water available to maintain a cool environment for such a massive data center. The Rio Grande is already in decline, currently 85 miles of the river is now dry due to constraints of agriculture. This is the second year in a row that the river has dried over 70 miles. The critically endangered Rio Grande Silvery Minnow is at risk of extinction in the wild if this pattern continues as it likely will. It should also be noted that New Mexico is in a water deficit to Texas, a deficit that will undoubtedly grow if Project Jupiter takes any amount of water from the river or the Mesilla Basin aquifer. Since there's no disclosure on where this project intends to attain its water, it should be rejected. We live in a desert that is becoming increasingly arid, there is no water available to support data centers and we cannot afford to double our emissions at a time when our livelihoods demand that we reduce them. We have now surpassed the 1.5 degree Celsius of warming that the IPCC agreed was the maximum amount we could emit to avoid the worst effects of climate change. If this data center is built, it would not only consume water but contribute to increasing aridification and reduced snowpack that are causing rapid drying in our Rio Grande. Project Jupiter is a terrible idea, as are all data centers that have increased our emissions nationwide. Though Trump could care less about the climate accord, those of us who care about our children do care and want to maintain a livable planet for them. I urge you to reject the air quality permit for Yucca Growth Infrastructure and stop Project Jupiter permanently.