

Claire Bernard

I do not live anywhere near where this is being proposed, but I am an advocate for the environment and the wildlife that use it. The community needs to be given a fair chance at fighting this, as they will be most affected by its consequences. The public needs 60 more days to review and comment on the air quality permit so community members can participate equitably. Not only that but it should be denied due to BLOOM's problematic history of illegally dumping hazardous waste. If the permit is not denied, a public hearing needs to be held in Santa Teresa, in both English and Spanish, with an option to participate virtually. It should also have the necessary interpreters in ASL and Mexican sign language. Approving this permit would be government-sponsored environmental racism as residents of Doña Ana County are already disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution. America is losing our desert ecosystems at a devastating rate and this could be catastrophic to this area's climate. Desert wildlife is so sensitive to changes that there would be no coming back if this were to be approved.