

Charlene Debus

I am urging NMED to REJECT Yucca Growth Infrastructure's application for an air permit to power a massive AI data center in Dona Ana County. This latest proposal to fuel Project Jupiter is no less concerning than their previous air permit application. Their proposed use of Bloom solid oxide fuel cells seems completely irresponsible, especially given this project's track record of straight-up lying and distorting facts about the actual research and testing they have done and plan on doing to monitor compliance with environmental standards. The people of Santa Teresa are already suffering due to our poor air quality and sheer amount of southwestern heat, which has worsened over time thanks to climate change, and I have zero confidence, evidence, or trust that the manner in which this project will be fueled is going to do anything that even attempts to lessen that impact.

This microgrid will be SIXTY TIMES bigger than the current largest operation using bloom solid oxide fuel cells. Do we really want our county, already seriously suffering from heat and awful air quality, to be the guinea pigs for what is likely going to be a poorly monitored microgrid with immense negative impacts on some of our most vulnerable residents? Bloom super oxide fuel cells emit an insane amount of carbon dioxide, in addition to carbon monoxide, and will create a heat island in what is already a really hot desert.

We already have comparatively poor health outcomes, but our residents will suffer with the drastic and permanent increase in respiratory illnesses this microgrid will bring. Are we willing to sink in the amount of money and health infrastructure that will be needed to respond to our residents' sudden increase in health problems? Is it worth it for the chance to be a guinea pig for this project?