

Rachelle Pena

My name is Rachelle and for the past four years i have served communities across New Mexico (from Las Cruces to Farmington) in emergency and acute care. Through this work, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of New Mexico's long history of nuclear, gas, and oil extraction. I fear that the expansion of AI data centers will push our communities that are already struggling even deeper into crisis. I have grown to love New Mexico, and hope to continue to provide care for these communities because this is my home now. So am asking you to deny Yucca Growth Infrastructure's air quality permit.

This project is estimated to release 10 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution and other toxic emissions into our skies and into our groundwater, Many of our metro area; especially Doña Ana County have some of the worst in the nation for ozone pollution and regularly receive a failing grades on air quality standard every single year since 2000. Allowing Project Jupiter to continue will put our fiends, family, and neighbors in danger. In my ERs we are rushing to provide fluids to patients who arrived breathless, dizzy and drenched in sweat. Others were brought in on stretchers, their body temperatures so high their central nervous systems had shut down.

Just this past week I took take of a man who had a seizure at his grandson's first baseball game from the extreme heat causing severe electrolyte imbalance. I'll never forget the cries of his family. I also will never forget the sound of a child struggling to breathe during a severe asthma attack caused by worsening air quality. And I will never forget placing a woman on life support after her body violently rejected contaminated drinking water she had no choice but to rely on while trying to make it through her work shift.

For far too long, our most vulnerable communities have borne the burden of systemic disinvestment at the hands of corporate profiteers, polluting industries, and policymakers who have repeatedly prioritized private interests over the health and well-being of the people. New Mexicans deserve better. you must hold a public hearing in-person in Santa Teresa with a virtual option as well. Materials and the hearing itself must be translated into Spanish and meet any other accessibility needs requested by community members.

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