

Melanie Vonfange

Public Comment: YGI Microgrid Air Quality Construction Permit Application 10883 To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Melanie Vonfange, and I am a resident of Truth or Consequences in Sierra County, New Mexico. I am submitting this public comment regarding the Yucca Growth Infrastructure, LLC (YGI) Microgrid Air Quality Construction Permit Application associated with Project Jupiter and related AI/data center infrastructure proposals.

I am medically fragile and depend heavily on reliable electricity and clean air during extreme heat conditions in southern New Mexico. Even now, many residents in Sierra County struggle to keep air conditioning running during dangerous summer temperatures due to rising costs, aging infrastructure, and electrical strain.

I am deeply concerned about the cumulative environmental and infrastructure impacts of this project, particularly as it relates to energy demand, emissions, air quality, and long-term strain on local systems.

I am also concerned about the broader issue of public trust. Communities like ours are being asked to trust increasingly large and complex technological systems while many existing systems already fail ordinary residents in critical ways. As someone who has personally experienced the disruption and instability caused by major healthcare technology rollouts, I have serious concerns about placing additional burdens on already fragile infrastructure without full transparency and rigorous oversight.

My concerns include:

- Increased air pollution from microgrid systems, backup generators, construction activity, and associated industrial operations.
- Additional stress on New Mexico's electrical grid during extreme heat events.
- Potential impacts to medically vulnerable residents, disabled residents, seniors, and low-income households who rely on stable electricity and clean air for survival.
- Water consumption concerns in an arid region already facing long-term drought and resource instability.
- The fragmented manner in which related permits and applications appear to be advancing, making it difficult for residents to understand the full cumulative impact of Project Jupiter and associated infrastructure.

I respectfully request that the New Mexico Environment Department evaluate this permit within the context of the larger interconnected project and conduct a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis rather than reviewing each application in isolation.

I also request transparent disclosure regarding projected total energy usage, emissions, water consumption, future expansion plans, and associated infrastructure tied to Project Jupiter.

Rural communities like Truth or Consequences and Sierra County deserve meaningful public participation, transparency, and protection from disproportionate environmental and infrastructure burdens.

Thank you for considering my comment and including it in the administrative record.

Sincerely,

Melanie Vonfange
Truth or Consequences, Sierra County, New Mexico