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Issues with Air Permit

Massive greenhouse gas pollution

Project Jupiter's power plant will release up to 10 million tons – 20 billion pounds – of climate-warming greenhouse gasses every year. This will make a mockery of our climate goals, and erase most of the climate progress we have made in the last two decades.

This is more greenhouse gas pollution than New Mexico's three largest cities combined – Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe.

The entire El Paso Electric grid is about 2,900 megawatts, while the entire PNM grid is about 2,700 megawatts. Each of those grids include a substantial amount of renewable energy sources and each of those grids has lower total greenhouse gas pollution than just Project Jupiter's proposed power plant.

El Paso Electric CO2 pollution: 3,119,379 tons (2025)[1]

PNM CO2 pollution: 5,276,705 tons (2022)[2]

Jupiter is proposing to emit more greenhouse gases than El Paso Electric and PNM combined. Jupiter is not using carbon capture or any technology to reduce greenhouse gases from the fuel cells.

Uncertainty in pollution numbers

Fuel cell technology has not been deployed at this scale. This is 1000 times larger than the largest existing Bloom fuel cell installation.

The Application is based on pollution testing from a very small unit. The testing unit is only 65kw, while the power plant is 37,000 times that size.

The tests took place in 2026 for three 4-hour tests.

The consulting firm that prepared the air application added 15% "safety margin" to the emissions numbers. This is not generally something that a consultant would do if they were confident with the pollution numbers.

Pollution is uncontrolled

There are no pollution controls on pollution exhaust stacks for the fuel cells. It appears that the pollution stacks are compatible with proven pollution controls like Selective Catalytic Reduction to remove Nitrogen Oxide pollution and oxidation catalyst to remove Carbon Monoxide pollution. These controls could reduce harmful pollution by more than 90%. Why is Jupiter not using post-fuel cell pollution controls?

Fuel cells generate hazardous waste

Fuel cells filter out sulfur and other contaminants in the methane stream. These contaminants accumulate as hazardous waste in "desulf canisters." The power plant will be generating enormous amounts of hazardous waste. Jupiter claims that any pollution from opening and changing the filter media in the desulf canisters is exempt from air permitting regulations (because there is less than 1000 lbs/yr).

Bloom was fined for improper hazardous waste handling in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 2020, Bloom was fined \$210,000, and then \$1,161,000.

[1] <https://www.epelectric.com/el-paso-electric/uploads/2025-sustainability-report.pdf>

[2] https://www.txnenergy.com/sustainability/environment/climate_change_report.aspx