

Victor Mata

Let me be respectful but blunt: in my opinion, any support for Project Jupiter is a blatant betrayal of southern New Mexico. The risks to our air, water, and health far outweigh the benefits the developers are promising.

My opposition is based on the project's own filings and on independent reporting:

- The power plant would emit roughly 10 million tons of greenhouse gases every year — more than Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe combined. A single facility would erase much of the climate progress New Mexico has made over the last two decades.
- The developers' switch from gas turbines to Bloom Energy fuel cells has been marketed as ""cleaner,"" but the plant would still burn natural gas and still produce those emissions. The Center for Biological Diversity has called the change essentially greenwashing.
- Bloom's fuel cells concentrate contaminants like benzene into filter canisters that become hazardous waste. The EPA has fined Bloom more than \$1 million for mishandling this waste at other sites.
- This plant escapes the renewable-energy requirements of New Mexico's Energy Transition Act only because state law exempts "microgrids" — even though this one would out-generate the state's largest utility.
- Santa Teresa and Sunland Park already fail to meet federal air-quality standards. This is a predominantly Hispanic border community, with schools and day cares near the site.

I understand that New Mexico is hungry for investment and needs to strengthen its economy — I don't dismiss that. But there are far better alternatives. New Mexico has abundant solar and wind resources, and solar and wind paired with battery storage are now the least expensive source of new electricity. Our district can benefit from investment without becoming the testing ground for one of the largest fossil-fueled data-center power plants in the country — especially while we are still fighting for clean, reliable drinking water.