



Responses to Community Questions

August 26, 2026

AIR

VOLITION'S POSITION

Volition's air story rests on a single design fact: nothing on this site burns. The fuel cells convert gas electrochemically, no flame, no turbines, no engines, no diesel, which is why the state's draft permit for the entire full build totals about 5 tons of NO_x a year, roughly the same as a regional hospital, in a valley where the existing inventory is measured in hundreds of tons. We publish the permit numbers, the comparisons, and the enforcement mechanics, because on air quality this community has earned the right to check rather than trust.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. "Will there be smokestacks or fumes?"

No combustion, no flame, no smokestacks, no diesel generators. The fuel cells convert gas electrochemically, and the permit carries a no-visible-emissions condition.

Ref: Utah DEQ Intent to Approve DAQE-IN163550001-26 (Aug 4 2026)

2. "What's actually permitted to come out of it?"

The state's draft permit, an Intent to Approve, in public comment through Sep 5, which becomes the enforceable Approval Order when finalized: about 5 tons of NO_x a year, 22 of CO, 17 of VOC, 0.12 of particulates, 0.01 of SO₂, for the entire full build. Anyone can read it.

Ref: Utah DEQ Intent to Approve DAQE-IN163550001-26, emissions table

3. "How does that compare to something I can picture?"

About the same NO_x as a regional hospital (~5 t/yr), and less than 1% of the NO_x already produced in Spanish Fork. A comparable gas-engine data center permitted in Utah this year is allowed 129 tons a year - 19 times "dirtier" than this one.

Ref: Utah DAQ permit records · Planning Commission Aug 5 2026 (staff comparison)

4. “The canyon wind blows right over our homes. Downwind means us.”

The permit’s totals are everything there is to blow anywhere: about 5 tons of NO_x across a year. The state found the emissions too small to require dispersion modeling under its health-protective screening rule.

Ref: Utah DAQ Engineer Review, project N163550001 · Utah Admin. Code R307–410

5. “I read gas-turbine data centers harm public health.”

That reporting is about combustion turbines. There are none here; no turbines, no engines, no diesel; that’s why the permitted numbers are a small fraction of a turbine site’s.

Ref: Utah DEQ Intent to Approve (non-combustion source category)

6. “With the inversions and fires, our air is already bad. Why add anything?”

Fair, anything above zero is real. The comparison that matters: this building’s likely alternative is the warehouse use it was built for, roughly 7,000 truck trips a month. This project replaces that with a few hundred commuter trips a day.

Ref: ITE Trip Generation Manual, 11th ed. (LUC 154/155 vs 160) · Spanish Fork Municipal Code §15.3.16.120

7. “Couldn’t the next applicant pollute far more under this same ordinance?”

Honestly, yes, that’s the gap. This facility is permitted at ~5 tons of NO_x; the ordinance’s ceiling for any applicant is the federal 100-ton major-source threshold. If the Council wants the floor closer to fuel-cell performance, the lever is making the ultra-low-emission tier mandatory, a choice we don’t oppose.

Ref: Title 15 amendment text §G · Clean Air Act nonattainment threshold

8. “Is there continuous monitoring, or are we trusting a spec sheet?”

Neither one: compliance runs on daily metered fuel records against the permit’s annual fuel cap, visible-emissions checks, the manufacturer’s binding emissions guarantee, and state inspection authority. That’s the standard architecture for a non-combustion minor source. The meter, not the spec sheet, is what’s enforced.

Ref: Utah DEQ Intent to Approve, conditions II.B.1 · Utah DAQ compliance framework

9. “Will it get dirtier as the fuel cells age?”

Aging power generation technologies lose efficiency, not their emissions certification, and the fuel cap bounds total emissions no matter the age. Fuel cells are replaced on a service cycle under a long-term service agreement, and the certification applies continuously, not just when new.

Ref: Utah DEQ Intent to Approve (fuel cap; certification condition) · Bloom Energy long-term service agreement

10. “Will emissions be checked by someone besides you?”

Yes, the state enforces the permit through fuel records and inspection, and our annual public report shows fuel burned and calculated emissions against the cap, plus any notice of violation, the year it happens.

Ref: Utah DEQ Intent to Approve · development-agreement annual-report commitment