

Comment by Paul Roden, Bucks

Re: Docket No. M-2025-3054271

I oppose Data Centers passing on their electric costs to the public.

I oppose data centers forcing their electric power requirements onto ratepayers. AI Data Centers should buy or build their own electric power supply sources at their expense.

According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, “The exact trajectory of future electricity use by data centers is unknown due to 1) improvements in AI system efficiency; 2) the unpredictability of demand for AI services; and 3) limits in manufacturing production capacity of AI chips, servers, and associated infrastructure.” The PUC is operating in the dark as it attempts to establish a tariff.

Carnegie Mellon and its research partners say that already “Virginia's data center growth drives increased fossil fuel use in nearby states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, potentially undermining state and regional climate goals.”, Natural gas would be used to power data centers. Methane leaks occurring at every step of natural gas production, transmission, and distribution exacerbate climate change. Hundreds of thousands of legacy wells leaking methane unchecked further add to the state’s contribution to the climate crisis. Continued and even increased natural gas production to power data centers is unacceptable.

Throughout the discussion of the tentative order, the PUC’s disposition fell short of imposing the most stringent requirements on large load customers. Therefore, the tentative order is weak and inadequate.

If AI Data Centers are to exist, they should be powered by solar, hydroelectric, geothermal & wind power instead of fossil fuel or nuclear power, which they should pay for by these companies.