

Comment by Lani frank, Chester

Re: Docket No. M-2025-3054271

I am strongly opposed to building data centers that will drain our resources and increase consumer prices for electricity and water

Proposals for these data centers are ill advised. We are not thoroughly examining the potential downsides of these centers in our rush to get on the bandwagon.

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., Electricity generation is not regulated in Pennsylvania, so the tariff only pertains to distribution costs. If approved, the tariff would not protect the public from generation costs which account for roughly 45% of consumer energy bills. Carnegie Mellon and its research partners projected that electricity generation costs will increase by as much as 25% by 2030.

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., According to Carnegie Mellon and its research partners, “Power sector emissions could increase 30% compared to scenarios without data center growth, reaching 275 million metric tonnes of CO2 annually by 2030. That matches the entire annual carbon output of France.”

The reporting requirements are out of step with the state’s efforts to fast-track data center approvals. The tentative order states that compliance reports must be filed on an annual basis by the end of the first quarter of the following year. Compliance data should be available on a real-time basis so that pertinent information is accessible as future data centers are fast-tracked., 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.

Let’s not leap before really knowing the ramifications of our decisions. We were told with fracking that it would be a bridge fuel and clearly that was a lie. We are cynical because we don’t want to be lied to again by this fossil fuel industry.