

Comment by mary march, chester

Re: Docket No. M-2025-3054271

As a constitute of PA, we have the constitutionally right to clean air and water, and to the preservation of the environment's natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values.

I support the following statement from the Better Path Coalition and No False Climate Solutions PA. “The problems being addressed in PUC’s tentative order are largely manufactured ones resulting from the state’s rush to get into the data center business before the boom goes bust. As is too often the case, the public is only engaged after the big decisions are made. Our first opportunity to comment comes when the only things left to decide are how to deal with the new project/business/industry. At that point, advancement of the thing under consideration is taken to be an inevitability when it really isn’t. Therefore, we feel it is important to state up front that we oppose the approval of hyperscale data centers in Pennsylvania based on many well-documented concerns about their environmental, health, safety, climate, quality of life, economic, and ethical impacts that scattershot regulations across agencies, in this case tariffs, cannot address. Our regulatory agencies should be our advocates, using their expertise to stop the state from creating preventable problems rather than resigning themselves to managing them.”

These large scale data centers are not only dangerous to the people but to our energy costs, our environment and to our natural resources. These AI centers and infrastructure does not benefit the people, state economy or the resources of PA. These hyperscale data centers only benefit corporate or political interests in gaining money for the already wealthy in our nation. I vehemently oppose any and all legislation, zoning and business efforts that further their creation, production or growing within PA.

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.

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.

In closing, as a public entity within the state of PA your agency, by your own words, are tasked with "works to ensure safe and reliable electric, natural gas, pipeline, motor carrier, rail, telecommunications, water and wastewater service at reasonable rates". This action violates the agency's own stated mission and goals. Approving hyperscale data centers, violates my state constitutional rights to clean air, water and decimates the natural environment. I oppose any and all efforts to approve, produce, maintain or grow these data centers within Pennsylvania.