

December 22, 2025
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Submitted electronically via PUC E-File

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept this letter providing input on the Commission's Tentative Order and proposed Model Tariff for Large Load Customers at Docket Number M-2025-3054271.

I am a private citizen and currently a customer of First Energy. I don't think data centers are inherently bad. However, we all know from experience that the extent to which this industry can be harmful depends upon the extent to which we allow it to be. If we choose to address the foreseeable issues up front, intentionally, we can counter its harmful impacts right from the start.

This means that strong standards should be established before any more data centers are built. The standards should be required, not optional, should be uniform across the state, and should have teeth. It follows that there needs to be a mechanism in place which not only monitors but also enforces compliance. If standards are simply "guidelines" or if they are not sufficiently detailed then they might as well not exist, as companies will circumvent them.

Like most other PA residents, a major concern of mine is the high cost of these centers being passed off to small ratepayers. All investment risk should be born by the companies taking the risks. We didn't ask for these centers and should not be expected to bear the burden of higher electric rates while enabling the investors to get rich.

Finally, one of Pennsylvania's greatest assets is the quality of life it has to offer. It should be our highest priority to preserve this. Therefore, before data centers are permitted every precaution should be taken to plan for reducing: (1) all associated health risks, (2) any degradation to the environment, (3) any impact impairing the sustainability of our natural resources, and (4) all potential disruptions to the quality of life such as noise pollution and brownouts/blackouts.

If we don't protect ourselves right from the get go, Pennsylvania data centers can despoil our state in the same way that coal, gas and oil have while saddling residents with huge costs in terms of our health and detriments to our environment.

I know I'm repeating myself, but Intelligent, responsible planning and regulation can mitigate the most harmful effects while still enabling residents to also benefit from this industry.

I'm not familiar with all of the proposed bills but I do think that Senate Bill 1114, sponsored by Senator Katie Muth, does a good job of getting at several issues identified here.

Respectfully,

Ron Williams