

Comment by Abby Samuels, Allegheny

Re: Docket No. M-2025-3054271

Please stop hurting our pockets, devaluing our properties, making us pay for corporate greed and our stealing water.

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.”

Help us stop these centers from coming in and having temporary jobs to come to our region to end up leaving and having the people pay for it. We need laws that stop corporate theft from the people. We can't afford any more loss of our communities and our resources because of corporate greed. We should be airing ads to stop people from dating ai and asking dumb questions. We don't need more stupidity. We need awareness of what it is doing to our water reserves, homes and utility bills. What is the point of money if we cant support the people in the communities that we serve? Please make it hard for them to put data centers in. They shouldn't be getting tax breaks either. If they do come in. We should not be paying the cost or being foot the bill of our communities homes and healths being devalued. Protect us, we the people; please dont kill us.

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., 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.

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 CO<sub>2</sub> annually by 2030. That matches the entire annual carbon output of France.”, 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., 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.”

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., 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., PUC’s order requires Large Load Customers to contribute to the utility’s hardship fund, but provides no relief for residential customers ; this is unfair, especially given the stunning figure cited by Commissioner Barrow that, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, “nearly a quarter of all Pennsylvanians have been unable to pay an energy bill in full in the last 12 months.” The fact that there is no agreement on contributions to the hardship fund among all of the commissioners is extremely concerning.

Please make an effort to protect those you serve the people, our livelihoods and the planet we live on. Please stop choosing corporate greed over us? How much suffering of our people, land, and water has to die for you to realize we can't drink or eat money?