

Dear PUC,

My name is Will Willis and I live in Mercersburg (Franklin County). I support the PUC in finalizing a strong Model Large Load Tariff because I am against bankrolling large, AI data center companies through my own electricity bills, and because we have to regulate their rollout to meet the larger needs of Pennsylvanians and Americans. This only seems fair..

I pay my fair share for the energy I use and as AI centers increase demand, thus affecting supply, it seems fair that they shoulder the cost burden of the stress they put on the grid. Any costs related to the buildout of infrastructure needed to serve a new large load/AI data center should be fully covered by that large load customer/AI data center, or covered in part if they can prove that other customers also benefit. Large loads/AI data centers must be required to pay for the costs of remediating and cleaning up their site after closing down. Again, this just seems fair and logical.

Given that protecting the public interest is part of the PUC's mission, that (globally!) solar energy was the top choice for new, large-scale electricity production for the past few years, and that AI centers use tremendous amounts of energy (even if they are working at becoming more efficient, they still use a lot of energy), it only makes sense that the AI data centers also be required to invest in renewable energy sources. We cannot afford to kick the can down the road with climate change, air pollution, and other factors, so it is important to address these issues head on and now. Large load customers/AI data centers should be required to bring their own clean energy, especially if they want to qualify for incentives or lower rates. Recent estimates have found that some gas-powered data centers could emit more greenhouse gases than entire countries, severely worsening the environment and climate crisis. Energy efficiency, grid enhancing technologies, and advanced transmission technologies can also reduce a large load/AI data center's strain on the grid. Clean energy is quicker to build and deploy, avoiding concerns of "stranded assets" that are much more likely with the decades-long lifespan of gas-fired power plants. Again, this makes sense and is the responsible, proactive, and mission-driven thing for the PUC to do.

Once we begin down this road, it is only going to get harder to make changes that benefit Pennsylvanians and Americans. So let's start off on the right foot. You'll note that I am not saying that we should not have data centers at all - I recognize that they will be built and this could be good for PA... IF we do it well. Doing it "well," means protecting our grid, protecting our consumers' wallets, protecting our consumers' health, protecting our ecosystem (which also includes water regulations, which we also ought to do on the front end now with the data centers), and protecting our long-term interests. For all of these reasons, I hope that you establish laws and regulations to achieve building these data centers "well."

Thank you for your consideration,  
Will Willis