

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Docket Number M-2025-3054271 – Tentative Order and Large Load Model Tariff

My name is Marlene Adkins and I live in Philadelphia. I support the PUC in finalizing a strong Model Large Load Tariff to make sure data centers pay their fair share and don't pass on their energy costs to regular people like me. AI data centers require far more electricity and water than regular data centers. I support the PUC in finalizing a strong Model Large Load Tariff. In areas near data centers, electricity rates have risen sharply, in some cases by over 267% in five years.

AI data centers do not protect local resources; they fail to keep utility costs low. These centers impose a financial burden on customers, forcing them to deplete their savings to pay utility bills driven up by massive tech companies that are not paying their fair share. AI data centers do not preserve communities and ensure that economic growth benefits residents. Public opinion is strongly negative — less than half of Americans would support a data center near them heatmap.news. Grassroots campaigns, from small towns to big cities, are organizing to block projects, and some states have enacted local bans. Large load customers/AI data centers should conduct and pay for their own interconnection studies, which help make sure infrastructure buildout to serve a large load/ AI data center is done efficiently and in a way that minimizes costs. Large loads/AI data centers must be required to pay for the costs of remediating and cleaning up their site after closing down. 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.

Protecting the public interest is part of the PUC's mission. Data centers should find a way to utilize clean energy that protects the public interest by protecting everyone's health and environment. 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. 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.

I care about holding data centers accountable for their energy usage and related energy cost because billionaires reaping massive profits while causing environmental catastrophe and skyrocketing utility costs for working people.

Marlene Adkins
dkdka27@msn.com