

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

My name is Sarah, and I live in Pittsburgh. 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.

I just bought a house and am worried that if my utility costs keep rising, it will start eating into my budget for other necessities (like groceries, which are already unbelievably expensive), to say nothing of the budgets of Pennsylvanians who are already struggling to make ends meet. It's absurd to expect everyday people to defray the costs of large corporations who almost certainly earn more per annum than the entire state's annual GDP. 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.

Additionally, I worry about the impact of AI data centers on our environment - here in Allegheny county, we already have incredibly unclean air due to the area's coke and metal works. It would be completely contrary to the PUC's mission of protecting public interests if it did not require AI data centers to use clean energy (which, coincidentally, is often cheaper and quicker to build than traditional energy sources). 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. 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.

I have lived in Pennsylvania for the majority of my life and am a proud Pittsburgh boomerang. I love our great state, but I am also well acquainted with how the current economy is impacting my neighbors. I believe that all Pennsylvanians deserve to have affordable public utilities and a clean, healthy environment. By holding AI data centers accountable for their electric use, and insisting that they invest in new, clean, energies, the PUC would certainly be taking an important step for the public good.

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