

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

My name is Russ, and I live in Jenkintown, Pa. 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. We don't need AI badly enough to demand more generating capacity from unsustainable sources that rely on fossil fuels. Moreover, it's not the responsibility of individual ratepayers to underwrite the costs of added capacity.

AI is a business initiative, investment, risk that ratepayers are responsible for supporting. By making large load customers responsible to the upcharge/surcharge of their energy needs, we can encourage them to choose to build efficient, non carbon-based generating sources. 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.

If data centers are the next form of major expansion of energy needs, it's their responsibility to reflect what we know about the need for next-generation sources of production. 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. Electrons are the new oil/gas/coal of our immediate future in energy production. We can't fall back to greater dependence on fossil fuels.

If we give into new large load customers in terms of cost and source of energy they need, we fall into an regressive policy that threatens health and environmental stability.

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