

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

My name is Michael and my wife and I live in Media. Our daughter and granddaughter also live close by. It is an indisputable fact that large data centers consume huge quantities of electricity. To meet the demand, utilities are relying upon additional production and consumption of coal and gas. This in turn causes more air pollution and other damage to the environment. Besides all this, cooling of the data centers consumes millions of gallons of water. I support the PUC in finalizing a strong Model Large Load Tariff to hold them responsible for environmental damage

Insofar as energy costs are concerned, who is going to pay for all of this? Utilities should not be permitted to pass on the costs of new energy infrastructure and greater energy demands and environmental risks to ordinary taxpayers. Imposing a large load tariff on the operators of large data centers is one step that may be taken to protect Pennsylvania citizens and my family supports such a tariff.

AI data centers are already driving up electricity costs for everyone through increased demand, and Pennsylvania residents and small businesses are already paying record-high rates for electricity. Regular customers should not have to deplete their savings to pay for utility bills that are being driven up by massive tech companies that are not paying their fair share. 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. 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.

AI data centers should be required to bring their own, new, clean energy in order to access incentives and lowered charges. The PUC's mission includes protecting the public interest and that includes protecting my health and environment. 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. 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. Energy efficiency, grid enhancing technologies, and advanced transmission technologies can also reduce a large load/AI data center's strain on the grid.

Using dirty energy to build and operate these centers should not be permitted. Causing ordinary taxpayers to pay higher bills for the benefit of operators should not be permitted.

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