

Comments by Yvonne Sorovac, Allegheny

Docket # M-2026-3059601

As a Pennsylvania resident and environmental scientist, I oppose the proposed PUC plan to reopen shuttered coal plants for the purpose of powering data centers. A healthy environment and stable climate are public necessities and essential to our Pennsylvania communities and economy. They should not be sacrificed for speculative data center development.

The 12 coal plants on the list account for roughly 4,122 MW of the retired capacity under review, or enough energy to power 3 million homes. Pennsylvania currently has 13 operational coal plants that have a combined capacity of 5.22 GW. If redeveloped, the number and total capacity of operational coal plants in the state would nearly double. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), coal is the single largest source of global temperature rise.

The PATER report states, "...a site ranking methodology will be developed to support a rigorous ranking of attributes and options and to ensure that the methodology is structured to incorporate all the criteria that arise through discussions with the PA PUC, Team PA, and other key stakeholders." P. 103 Team PA operates as a non-profit that supports the Governor's agenda. It has been deeply involved in development of energy and data center projects. Its involvement in ranking sites would constitute an unacceptable conflict of interest.

We have made progress reducing harmful airborne emissions from burning coal and emissions that contribute to climate forcing. This action by the PUC would largely erase that progress, and for the purpose of supporting a non essential industry that is highly speculative. The PUC needs to reevaluate what strategies will be durable and truly serve the ratepayers of Pennsylvania.