

Hello, and thank you for allowing me to give comment on the cumulative environmental and health impacts of AI data centers.

I live in Washington county Pennsylvania the most heavily fracked county in our state. I grew up on the Monongahela river. I remember when raw sewage and coal mining polluted the river. The river was cleaned up, then polluted again with oil and gas waste being dumped and leaked from municipal landfills that are allowed to take fracking waste through leachate.

Washington county is slated for 4 AI data centers. In Greene County, PA, not far from my own community, there is a proposed data center complex, Dubbed Project Hummingbird. It would span 1,400 acres along the Monongahela River.

Power would come through two natural gas turbines to be installed on-site by Pittsburgh-based International Electric Power, which will generate 910 megawatts.

To put that in perspective, this one gas plant would be almost as big in terms of megawatts as half of all the solar installed anywhere in the state of Pennsylvania, and the power would not be going to the grid - just to the data center.

That will require a staggering amount of gas, by some estimates, an increase of 1,800 wells in Washington county to feed this AI data center. My community and others are inundated with well pads, currently 34 in a 1-3 mile radius near my home, in addition to pipelines, truck traffic and compressor stations.

All of this infrastructure has health impacts. Compressor stations, fracking well pads, pipelines, and so on, all leak pollutants into the air and even the water.

Throughout our region cancers rates range from 10 percent to 300 percent higher than the US national average rates according to new research from Harvard college by professor Lauren Minsky. The People's Cancer Incidence Screening Tool (PCIST) <http://pcist.net/> confirms what residents already know_our rates of certain cancers are higher than state and national averages. These numbers aren't statistics: they represent your families friend and neighbors.

This AI data center would use 18 million gallons of water a day for cooling and power generation facilities. A water treatment plant will be built for the 18 million gallons of water used daily.

Most local water companies sell water to the fracking industry. During the summer months when the river is low instead of raising the river the water is held back for the fracking industry who has bought our water. Our water comes from the Monongahela river. Everyone in our community for the past 21 years receives notices from Tri county water stating that

we are above safe levels of trihalomethane. This summer notices went out stating the water was above lead, and radiation levels along with fecal matter. At the bottom of every notice the statement reads “this is not an emergency”, Unless you are elderly, have health impacts or have prolonged exposure there is no need for concern.” Isn't 21 years prolonged exposure? These impacts are cumulative.

I believe that, when a new industrial facility is proposed, DEP should consider cumulative impacts to the community. When considering something like this new gas plant for this new data center, you should take into account the pollution we already live with.

According to the company, gas turbines would arrive in 2028 and should be operational by 2029. An estimated time frame for any construction jobs this might create would just be three years. More boom and bust. Employing 12- 20 people to inundate communities and families with more pollution from fracking and losing water is inexcusable and hardly worth the tax revenue, that will go away when the AI centers do.

Local Greene county officials have said “this is the best thing since the coal mines were here.”

The arguments that the industry are using are the same. The same play book is being used. David Spiegelmyer, former president of the Marcellus shale coalition, a pro industry trade group, is now the senior vice president of community and governmental relations for International Electric Power. Coincidence?

Southwestern Pennsylvanians are tired of our communities being dumping grounds for polluting industry. Why don't we have a choice?

As DEP considers permits for data centers, I ask that you consider the cumulative impacts that already burden our communities.

Thank you for your time

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Clean Air Council