

From: [Savage, Nick](#)
To: [planadmin](#)
Subject: FW: Zoning
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026 4:16:12 PM

Please add to File 260029.

Thank you,

Nick Savage

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From: Robin B <beanr78910@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 1:44 PM
To: Jackson, DiAndre <DiAndre.Jackson@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Re: Zoning

Understanding the core safety risks of data centers

Data centers create several major safety risks that go beyond just using up resources. Their biggest threat lies in how they affect electrical grid stability. Power grids can experience cascading outages that affect whole regions at the time these facilities suddenly disconnect [1]. Grid operators have documented more than 30 “near-miss” incidents over the last several years since 2020 [1].

The situation becomes more concerning with data centers creating “bad harmonics” – these erratic voltage spikes damage household appliances and raise fire risks. Research shows that 75% of highly distorted power readings show up within 50 miles of major data center operations [2].

These facilities’ health effects are also worrying. People who keep taking in fine particulates from diesel backup generators often develop respiratory problems [3]. On top of that, the chemically treated cooling water becomes unsafe for drinking or farming [4].

Research indicates that living close to data centers doesn’t pose electromagnetic field risks [5]. However, water availability has become a critical issue. Meta’s data center construction in Georgia led to nearby residents’ wells running dry [6].

The cooling systems and backup generators create noise that disturbs local residents despite soundproofing efforts [5]. These facilities put pressure on local utilities and can drive up residential costs, while companies often get better utility rates [4]. Communities where these centers appear often struggle with poverty and lower education levels. Research shows a strong relationship ($r = 0.867$) between social vulnerability and data center locations [7]. This pattern makes us ask hard questions about how companies choose

their sites.

The promised economic rewards don't quite add up. Virginia's data centers brought in \$1 billion in tax money [8]. Yet each facility creates nowhere near 100 direct jobs [8]. Local residents might see their electricity bills jump by 19% by 2028 as these centers' power needs grow [9].

Different locations use vastly different amounts of resources. New data centers planned for Virginia would just need 40 gigawatts of extra power – almost three times what the state can currently produce [10]. Local communities trying to meet their climate goals might stay stuck with fossil fuels longer than planned [11].

Living near these centers makes everything worse. One neighbor summed it up perfectly when they asked about the cooling systems: “How am I going to relax with something buzzing at me 24/7?” [10]

On Thu, May 14, 2026, 1:00 PM Robin B <beanr78910@gmail.com> wrote:

The whole point of representative democracy is that citizens control their own borders, their own laws, their own future. The UN migration pact represented exactly the opposite vision, where technocrats in Geneva or New York make decisions that reshape American communities without asking permission. This point is so appropriate for this zoning situation.

On Thu, May 14, 2026, 12:45 PM Robin B <beanr78910@gmail.com> wrote:

Changing zoning to allow for Data has a broad, disenfranchisement aspect. Such a change gives data business a voice in a residential/consumer business zoned environment. Other doors would be opened for undesirable and anti-residential activity from zoning changes. After review of data center effect on communities again, the question to ask is why this purchaser, knowing the zoning, bought the property unless a politician gave a positive nod to data as an option very much like the mayor nodded to the slaughter house. There isn't a positive, but contrary, a data center brings all negatives to the environment, quality of life, negative consumer business prospect, power drain, water drain, negative health impact. Alderman Jackson, I asked you what you are worth? Will you be as strong as alderman Rainey and say no to zoning changes that do not enhance residential communities.