

From: [Wendy Fall](#)
To: [planadmin](#)
Subject: Data center plan testimony
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To whom it may concern;

My name is Wendy Fall and I work in environmental public health. I am writing as a private citizen today because I live in Milwaukee county and have friends in the Sherman Park area. I am concerned about the way this massive project will impact them and their neighbors, and everyone in our county.

The immediate environment is a determinant of a person's health, and it's one that is beyond their individual control. Here are just a few of environmental health concerns I have regarding this project for residents nearby:

1. Noise. Both the construction of and the operation of a data center will add noise to the neighborhood. The cooling system on a data center is no joke, and must run constantly in all weather. Anything above 85 decibels is harmful to hearing, but noise that is constant, even at lower levels, can cause long-term stress and insomnia, and a decreased quality of life.
2. Light pollution. Data centers run 24/7 and therefore require all-night lighting. This disrupts circadian rhythms and sleep-wake cycles. Light pollution contributes to the same problems as noise for people who live in that brightly lit area.
3. Air pollution. Data centers rely on diesel powered generators to power their backup systems. These are known to emit nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter that increases the rate of respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, and cancer for people nearby. In Milwaukee we have already been experiencing elevated particulate matter due to climate change.
4. Heat: a data center creates a great deal of heat, which will be pumped into the neighborhood by the constant churn of the HVAC system. There will be days when that heat sits in the neighborhood, especially when the weather is also hot. It is unknown how a data center's heat emissions will affect the rates of heat-related illness in the immediate area. Heat-related illness can cause long-term disability and death.
5. Walkability: a large, multi-block fenced-off area makes a neighborhood harder to traverse. This has the dual effect of making vehicular transport in the immediate area less efficient (adding traffic sounds to noise and air pollution), and discouraging healthier options like walking/biking by reducing route options.
6. Mental health: a data center can be an eyesore. Living in a place perceived as ugly or undesirable can have measurable ill effects on mental health. Clearing and greening space has been proven to have a calming effect, but monotonous, boring architecture, such as the utilitarian form favored by data centers, leads to stress and anxiety. Ugly or uninteresting buildings can also break up the social rhythm of a community, leading to feelings of loneliness and isolation that often pair with depression. Finally, the sense of living in an area that is perceived as 'industrial' has been linked to overall poorer mental health.

Its important to acknowledge that we do not have long-term research that would reveal any other health impacts these centers may have. We don't know how hardware disposal works, for example, and what effects that might have. What anti-oxidant chemicals will they use in their cooling systems, and how much of those chemicals will leech into the local water supply or soil? The unknowns are almost more concerning than my other many concerns.

Finally, I have grave concerns for these data centers for Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, and the Great Lakes region in general, since we have not made legislation that will require data centers to compensate residents for the drain on our natural resources and infrastructure. Water and air pollution are not confined by a line on a map; they spread and impact whole regions. We need our water and we need clean air. We also already have trouble with our local power grid and sewer system when there is a storm. We strain WE energies' capacity when we have a heat wave to keep human beings cool, so upgrades will be needed, the cost of which will be passed down to all of us. We are already pinched by inflation, wage stagnation, and high fuel costs.

I am strongly against the data center project in this specific location and anywhere near people's homes. I am also

against the reckless and careless placement of them anywhere in our state without diligence to offset their environmental and infrastructure burden.

Thank you,
Wendy Fall
Milwaukee County resident