

Meade, Eddie (DNREC)

From: John S [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 6:34 PM
To: CZA, Program (MailBox Resources)
Subject: Public Comment Opposing Proposed Data Center Near Delaware City

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally submit a public comment in opposition to the proposed Starwood Digital Ventures data center project near Delaware City.

While I understand the importance of technological infrastructure, this proposal raises several serious red flags that warrant denial or, at minimum, a full public hearing and significantly greater scrutiny.

First, the scale of this project is excessive for the proposed location. An 11-building campus spanning 579 acres, combined with five electrical substations, represents an industrial-level development that is incompatible with the surrounding community and environment.

Second, the proposal to install 516 diesel emergency generators is deeply concerning. Even if classified as “emergency use,” such generators require regular testing and maintenance, resulting in ongoing emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides. This poses potential risks to air quality, public health, and environmental justice, particularly for nearby residents.

Third, the project’s energy demand and infrastructure burden raise questions about grid reliability, long-term costs to ratepayers, and whether local residents will ultimately subsidize a private development through higher utility rates or public infrastructure upgrades.

Fourth, the environmental impact of converting such a large land area is troubling. Potential loss of open space, wildlife habitat, increased stormwater runoff, and noise pollution must be fully evaluated. Data centers also typically provide minimal permanent employment, making the tradeoff between environmental cost and long-term community benefit highly questionable.

Finally, data centers often receive significant tax incentives, which can drastically reduce the promised economic benefit to local communities while leaving residents to bear the environmental and quality-of-life consequences.

For these reasons, I strongly urge DNREC to:

- Require a full public hearing
- Conduct rigorous environmental and health impact assessments
- Closely examine emissions, noise, water use, and energy demands
- Ensure transparency regarding tax incentives and true community benefits

Delaware residents deserve development that is balanced, responsible, and aligned with long-term public health and environmental sustainability. As proposed, this project raises too many unresolved concerns to move forward responsibly.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

John S [REDACTED]