

**From:** [Elizabeth G. \[REDACTED\]](#)  
**To:** [CZA, Program \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Project Washington Data Center Status Decision (Project CZA-448SD)  
**Date:** Saturday, January 10, 2026 4:49:24 PM

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Dear Coastal Zone Act Program,

I urge you to do everything in your power to prevent this - and future - data centers from being built in Delaware. They are an enormous drain on already strained resources and offer literally nothing in return. The few Delawareans who may be employed by this location does not offset the incredible toll on our energy infrastructure, and natural resources. Delaware does not need data centers and the BIG money behind Project Washington is so clearly exploitative and does not actually care about the people who live here. I am raising a family a few miles from the proposed location and a future filled with empty buildings wasting precious resources is not the future I want for my kids. Data centers, and Project Washington in particular, are not the way forward. Please listen to Delawareans, not the financial backers of these projects.

Dear Secretary Patterson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Washington Data Center Status Decision. I strongly believe the Data Center is incompatible with the Coastal Zone, has the potential to cause significant environmental harm, and therefore, it should not be permitted.

In June 1971, the State of Delaware, motivated by concerns over the industrialization of its coast, made a crucial decision to prioritize coastal resource preservation over unrestricted industrial growth by enacting the Delaware Coastal Zone Act (CZA). According to the first section of the CZA, it is the public policy of the State to control the location, extent, and type of industrial development in Delaware's coastal areas. As you are aware, the CZA prioritizes protecting coastal resources over the interests of industrial development by completely prohibiting certain uses because of the environmental threats they pose. Due to the size, scope, and industrial nature of the Data Center, DNREC is obligated to fulfill the legislative intent of the CZA and prohibit the Data Center.

The Data Center, a new hyperscale campus with massive energy demand, hundreds of industrial generators, diesel fuel tanks, substations, and switchyards, is the exact type of heavy industrial complex that the CZA was enacted to prevent in the Coastal Zone. The Data Center will occupy 579 acres and be one of the largest industrial developments in the Delaware coastal corridor. The CZA defines prohibited heavy industry, in part, by reference to uses exceeding 20 acres with industrial characteristics, such as tanks. The Data Center is nearly 29 times the size of a prohibited industrial site, and the number of tanks makes it a prohibited use both as heavy industry and as a tank farm. The Data Center application also fails to analyze the environmental justice impacts on citizens who live and work near this massive proposed use.

The definition of prohibited heavy industry in the CZA also includes industries with the potential to pollute when equipment malfunctions or human error occurs. The Data Center will create air pollution in the Coastal Zone. The Data Center will have 516 emergency generators, each with a 5,020-gallon diesel fuel tank. The Data Center application provides air emissions

data based on testing and a worst-case scenario, but fails to provide a cumulative analysis for simultaneous startup of the many generator units, nor does it include a regional air impacts assessment. The application also does not explore the possibility of a leak or spill of the 2,590,320 gallons of diesel fuel in the Coastal Zone, as required by the CZA.

The Data Center will impact water availability and wastewater treatment in the area. According to the application, the Data Center will discharge 2,737,500 gallons per year to a permitted wastewater treatment facility. Despite cooling systems being vital to the operation of a data center, the Data Center application provides that advanced cooling options for the Center are still being explored. Given the size of the Data Center, the proposed water usage appears low and likely underestimates cooling needs at full build-out.

As is typical in Delaware's Coastal Zone, the Data Center site contains wetlands, and sensitive species such as monarch butterflies, the tri-colored bat, and the northern long-eared bat that may occur on or adjacent to the property. The size and nature of the Data Center will detrimentally impact nearby wetlands and sensitive species through noise pollution, altered hydrology, increased stormwater runoff, and sedimentation during construction. The prohibitions in the CZA were meant to protect the fragile ecosystems within Delaware's coastal corridor; therefore, DNREC should prohibit this use in the Coastal Zone.

I urge you to protect Delaware's Coastal Zone from this proposed use, and I thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5673.