

From: [Mary Ann L \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [CZA, Program \(MailBox Resources\)](#)
Subject: Project Washington Data Center Status Decision (Project CZA-448SD)
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 4:29:50 PM
Attachments: [cza approval comment .docx](#)

Dear Secretary Patterson,
Find attached my comments urging you to reject the application for Project Washington on the grounds that it is a heavy industry land use..

Comments are attached and also pasted here:

Dear Secretary Peterson,

My name is Doctor Mary Ann L [REDACTED], and I am a member of [REDACTED]. I am taking this opportunity to comment on the Project Washington Data Center Status Decision which you will be making. It is my strong opinion that the data center is incompatible with the very environmental protections intended by the Coastal Zone Act. The plan description qualifies it as heavy industry, and possibly as a tank farm.

As the secretary of our natural resources protection agency, you have seen reactions to similar large-scale data center installations. Like others, the Project Washington data center qualifies as a heavy industry use- in terms of building scale, resource consumption, potential air and water contamination and excessive and/or constant noise.

The plan proposes a severe drain on existing public water and power utilities. A data center is simply an installation of computers. Computers consume power and generate heat. A data center is housing for stacks and stacks of computers. They run 24/7 every day of the year. Electronic equipment demands a perfect climate-controlled environment- maintained constantly. Water circulates to moderate temperature and regulate humidity, power is consumed to maintain performance. These centers require a reliable and constant flow of energy.

To ensure this, Project Washington plans to utilize 516 backup diesel generators, each with an associated 5,020 gallon fuel storage tank. The generators are described as backup power, but will be tested routinely and used whenever "power is limited". The storage tanks and diesel generators alone qualify this project as heavy industry. Storage tanks can leak or spill, contaminating waters of the coastal zone. Generators emit air pollutants, lowering air quality when in use.

Finally, all data centers use large volumes of electronic and battery equipment that pose environmental, public health and safety risks if left abandoned or unmaintained. For all of these reasons, I believe the data center qualifies as heavy industry and should not be permitted in the coastal zone.

Citizens of Delaware can proudly boast one of the most unspoiled coastal zones along the east coast, pleasurable for recreation, significant for tourism, and environmentally sound.

You are tasked with making a monumental decision that will cast a long shadow over the future of our state. We turn to you as the head of our state natural resource and environmental management agency to prohibit this data center project from the Coastal Zone.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Ann L 