

Meade, Eddie (DNREC)

From: Kelly K [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2025 2:39 PM
To: CZA, Program (MailBox Resources)
Subject: Public Comment on Coastal Zone Act Status Decision – Starwood Digital Ventures Data Center Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear DNREC Coastal Zone Act Program Team,

I am writing as a concerned resident of New Castle County regarding the proposed Starwood Digital Ventures data center campus at 0 River Road and 825 Governor Lea Road. While I recognize the potential economic benefits of this project, I have serious concerns about its environmental, health, and community impacts. Please consider the following points in your review:

Air Quality and Emissions

The application indicates the use of **504 diesel emergency generators and 12 house units**, which, even under limited testing, will emit **approximately 25 tons of NOx annually**, and up to **616 tons/year under worst-case scenarios**. Diesel exhaust contains particulate matter (PM) linked to respiratory illnesses. I urge DNREC to require:

- Continuous air quality monitoring.
- A mitigation plan for NOx and PM emissions.
- Exploration of cleaner backup power alternatives.

Noise Pollution

Generators rated at **70 decibels at 23 feet** could create significant noise during testing, even if staggered. The nearest residential area is only **0.5 miles away**. Please require:

- A noise study prior to approval.
- Installation of sound barriers or acoustic mitigation measures.

Water Use and Wastewater

The project anticipates **over 12.6 million gallons of water annually** for humidification and potable use, plus **600,000 gallons for cooling system charging**. This raises concerns about strain on local water resources. DNREC should:

- Confirm Veolia's capacity to meet demand without impacting residential supply.
- Require contingency plans for drought conditions.

Habitat and Environmental Protection

The site includes riparian buffers and wetlands near **Red Lion Creek**. While directional drilling is proposed, risks remain for sensitive ecosystems and endangered species such as the northern long-eared bat. DNREC should:

- Enforce seasonal restrictions on tree clearing.
- Require wildlife monitoring and mitigation measures.

Emergency Preparedness and Safety

With over **500 diesel tanks**, even minor leaks could contaminate soil or waterways. DNREC should mandate:

- A detailed spill prevention and response plan.
- Community notification protocols for any incidents.

Traffic and Infrastructure

Construction and ongoing fuel deliveries will increase truck traffic. Please require:

- A traffic management plan.
- Road maintenance commitments to offset wear and tear.

Aesthetic and Community Impact

Eleven massive buildings (up to **700,000 sq. ft. each**) will alter the landscape. DNREC should ensure:

- Visual screening and landscaping.
- Lighting controls to minimize glare.

Climate and Energy Concerns

The campus will consume **1.2 GW of electricity** at full build-out. How does this align with Delaware's climate goals? DNREC should:

- Require disclosure of energy sourcing.
- Encourage renewable energy integration.

Transparency and Public Engagement

Given the scale of this project, residents deserve:

- Regular updates and public meetings.
- Access to environmental monitoring data.
- A community advisory board for ongoing oversight.

While technological development is important, it must not come at the expense of public health, environmental integrity, and community well-being. I respectfully request DNREC to address these concerns and any long lasting, irreversible consequences granting approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly K [REDACTED]