

July 29, 2025

The Honorable Jessica Shirley
Secretary
PA Department of Environmental Protection
400 Market Street
16th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Secretary Shirley,

The Shapiro administration is partnering with Senator David McCormick and the Trump administration to attract billions of dollars of investments in data centers to Pennsylvania, yet anyone searching the DEP's website will not find much information about this consequential development nor opportunities to voice concerns about it. The undersigned 42 organizations and 169 individuals from 36 counties are calling on the Department to correct these deficiencies.

One project that was announced months before the recent Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Summit is the proposed Homer City center in Indiana County. Its developers boast that the data center would be powered by the largest natural gas power plant in the country, something that is of particular concern as methane's climate impacts are well-known. Yet a search of the DEP's website yields only this:

"Previously, the largest coal-burning power plant in Pennsylvania, Homer City Generating Station, will now become the largest natural gas-powered plant in the country. The plant will be transformed into a more than 3,200-acre natural gas-powered data center campus, designed to meet the growing AI and high-performance computing needs."

Amazon's proposed data centers are not mentioned on the site at all. In fact, the June 14th edition of the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#) includes a notice that an application for an air quality plan approval for Amazon's proposed Bucks County site is open for comment, yet there is no mention of it on DEP's E-Comment portal. The Bulletin makes no mention of a public meeting nor a public hearing, both critical elements of a robust public participation process.

While these issues are not new, they are worth correcting as Pennsylvania embarks on the next generation of fossil fuel and nuclear energy development, this time to support a relatively new industry that would bring massive polluting facilities to communities across the state. The DEP's site should provide a one-stop shop to people seeking information on

proposed data centers and accompanying large-scale energy projects, much as your GreenPort does for industry. The Department should ensure that the public is made aware of opportunities to learn about proposed projects or comment on them by advertising them very clearly on the DEP site, publishing notices in newspapers and in municipal offices and on their websites, and posting notices on physical sites.

We would be happy to discuss our thoughts with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Karen Elias, Co-Founder, No False Climate Solutions PA

Karen Feridun, Co-Founder, Better Path Coalition

On behalf of the undersigned

Organizational Signers

Aarushi Pant, Executive Director, Allegheny County Clean Air Now (AACAN)

Hilary O'Toole, Executive Director, Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community

Michael Shaw, Director of Field Research, Berks Gas Truth

Faramarz Farbod, Beyond Capitalism

Matthew Mehalik, Executive Director, Breathe Project

Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks Environmental Action

Rebecca Roter, Chairperson, Breathe Easy Susquehanna County

Ethan Story, Advocacy Director, Center for Coalfield Justice

Hilary Flint, PA Field Organizing Manager, Center for Oil & Gas Organizing

Renee Dolney, Chalfant Run-Thompson Run Watershed Association

Tom Pike, Director of Campaigns, Clean Air Council

Jay Notartomaso, Climate Reality NEPA

Marcel C. Minutolo, Chair, Climate Reality Project, Pittsburgh & SWPA

Sandy Field, Chair, Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley PA Chapter

Barbara W. Brandom, MD, Committee Member, Concerned Health Professionals of PA

Ana Hoffman, Air Quality Program Director, CREATE Lab, Carnegie Mellon University

Anneke van Rossum, Advocacy and Policy Coordinator, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Alisa Shargorodsky, Director, ECHO Systems

Dylan Altemara, Chair, Elizabeth Township Democratic Committee (Allegheny County)

Ray Kemble, Spokesperson, Dimock Environmental Research Center

Megan McDonough, Pennsylvania State Director, Food & Water Watch

Shannon Smith, Executive Director, FracTracker Alliance

Lea Harper, Managing Director, FreshWater Accountability Project

Maya K. van Rossum, Founder, Green Amendments For The Generations

Michael Sauers, Writer, Greenfirecoalition Writers' Forum

BJ McManama, Public Relations and Web Manager, Indigenous Environmental Network

Timothy Runkle, Co-chair, Lancaster CountyGreen Party

Michael Bagdes-Canning, Planning Group Member, Marcellus Outreach Butler

Ashley Funk, Executive Director, Mountain Watershed Association

Tamela Trussell, Founder, Move Past Plastic (MPP)

Jay Notartomaso, Founder, NEPA Green Coalition

Bernard Survil, Coordinator, Pax Christi Greensburg PA

David Gibson, Co-ordinator, Peace, Justice, Sustainability, NOW!

Michael Bagdes-Canning, Steering Committee Member, Pennsylvania Action on Climate

Doris Loud, President, Pennsylvanians for Environmental Protection (PEP)

Josephine Gingerich, Health Advocacy Outreach Coordinator, Physicians for Social Responsibility PA

Barbara Jarmoska, President, Project CoffeeHouse

Kent Bay, President, Project Love Coalition

Gillian Graber, Executive Director, ProtectPT

Michael Schroeder, President, Quittapahilla Watershed Association

Sandy Field, Chair, Save Our Susquehanna

Faith Zerbe, Co-founder, Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness

Sharon Yates, Chair, Valley Township ESAC

Individual signers

Karen Bernard, Allegheny County

Bute, Allegheny County

Dianne Carroll, Allegheny County

Jenna Colby, Allegheny County

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Nancy Hemberger, Berks County

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Thomas Casey, Chester County

Nancy Doyle, Chester County

Ginny Marcille-Kerslake, Chester County

Nicola Nicolai, Chester County

Peter Noga Jr., Chester County

Senator Katie Muth, Chester County - Representing parts of Berks, Chester, & Montgomery Counties

Cynthia Sherbin, Chester County

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Grace Bergin, Clearfield County

Emma Hesil, Clearfield County

Joao Kamandulis, Clearfield County

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Jan Milburn, Westmoreland County

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David Pedersen, Capital Regional District (British Columbia, Canada)