STELLAR FORGE
COMPUTE

DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT
FACT SHEET

SFP 243 | HODGEMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

This fact sheet was prepared for Hodgeman County residents who want plain answers about Stellar Forge, the proposed SFP 243 project, and how Kansas law and county review apply to it. ***No final decisions have been made.*** *The project cannot be built without Hodgeman County approval.*

WHO IS STELLAR FORGE?

Stellar Forge develops and operates data center infrastructure through two business lines: Stellar Forge Compute, which provides computing capacity for artificial intelligence and machine learning, and Stellar Forge Mining, which operates high-performance blockchain computing. We are a Kansas-based team, and we focus on rural Kansas sites where power infrastructure, available land and a willing community make a long-term facility possible.

WHAT WE INTEND IN HODGEMAN COUNTY

- **Be a long-term neighbor and taxpayer.** Data centers are built to operate for decades. We are planning for a lasting presence in the county, not a short-term project.
- **Follow the county's rules.** SFP 243 will go through Hodgeman County's zoning process, including its data center regulations (Article 25) and a conditional use permit.
- **Design for rural Kansas.** Our facilities use a zero-water cooling design, so the project does not compete with farms, ranches or households for groundwater.
- **Answer questions openly.** We will take part in the county's community meeting and follow up in writing on questions we cannot answer on the spot.

SFP 243 AT A GLANCE

PROJECT	SFP 243 — a high-performance computing data center
DEVELOPER	Stellar Forge
LOCATION	Potential site in Hodgeman County, Kansas (under evaluation)
PLANNED CAPACITY	Up to approximately 245 MW at full build-out (the "large-scale" 100+ MW class)
WATER FOR COOLING	None. Zero-water cooling design; only limited water for staff restrooms and kitchen use
FIRE SUPPRESSION	Gaseous clean-agent system (no water-based sprinklers in equipment halls)
APPROVAL PATH	Hodgeman County zoning review under Article 25; the landowner files the conditional use permit application, with public notice and hearing
JOB CREATION	Large-scale facilities typically bring 1,000+ construction jobs during the build, followed by permanent careers in cybersecurity, network operations and facility maintenance that often pay above county average wages. Each direct job supports an average of 7.4 additional jobs in the local economy.
CURRENT STATUS	**Early stage. No permit has been granted and no construction has begun.**

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE PROTECTIONS

Kansas has adopted some of the most detailed data center requirements in the country. These rules exist to make sure large facilities pay their own way and meet security and water standards.

SENATE BILL 98 (2025)

Requirements for the state sales tax exemption

- **Invest** at least $250 million within the first five years.
- **Create** at least 20 new full-time jobs for Kansas residents.
- **Submit** to a security review by the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC).
- **Adopt** a water plan to conserve, reuse and replace water.
- **No discounted power:** utilities may not give data centers the economic development discount rates other large industrial users can receive.

Applies to projects that seek the state exemption. Source: Kansas SB 98 (2025).

KCC LARGE-LOAD RULES (NOV. 2025)

Protecting residential ratepayers

- **Long contracts:** large loads (75 MW and up) sign 12- to 17-year service contracts.
- **Minimum bills:** pay at least 80% of contracted demand, even in months they use less.
- **Collateral:** post security equal to two years of minimum bills, so the risk sits with the data center, not residents.
- **Upgrades:** pay for the transmission upgrades needed to serve their own facility.

Source: Kansas Corporation Commission order, Nov. 6, 2025.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the data center use our water?

Not for cooling. SFP 243 uses a zero-water cooling design, the industry standard for water-stressed areas. The only ongoing water use is ordinary domestic use for staff restrooms and a break room, similar to a small office. Because the cooling system does not use water, there is also no cooling-water discharge. The cooling design will be part of the county's permit review, so residents can see it in the public record.

Sources: IEA via Network World (Feb. 2026); EESI (2025).

Will my electric bill go up to pay for it?

Kansas law is built to prevent that. Data centers cannot receive discounted economic development rates, and under the state's large-load rules they sign long-term contracts, post collateral and pay for the upgrades needed to serve them. To be candid: utilities can still ask regulators for general rate increases to recover grid investments, and those requests are reviewed publicly. Residents are right to follow those cases, and we support large users paying their proportionate share.

Sources: KCC order (Nov. 2025); Kansas SB 98; Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School (2026).

How loud will it be?

Outdoor cooling equipment typically measures 55–75 dBA at the source, roughly a dishwasher or normal conversation. Sound drops with distance, so levels at the property line are lower. Backup generators are louder but run mainly during scheduled testing or a power outage. Setbacks, equipment placement, screening and sound walls are the standard tools, and Article 25 sets the requirements SFP 243 must meet.

Sources: TechTarget (2024); C&C Technology Group (2024); Ramboll (Dec. 2024).

Could it cause blackouts or strain the grid?

A data center draws a steady, predictable load, which utilities can plan around far more easily than sudden spikes. The real risk comes from large facilities that drop off the grid all at once during a disturbance; modern designs and utility requirements now call for equipment that rides through short disturbances instead. SFP 243 will be planned and interconnected with the serving utility under its engineering and safety standards.

Sources: Grid Strategies LLC (2025); Schneider Electric (Feb. 2026).

Is it a fire risk?

Equipment halls are protected by a gaseous clean-agent suppression system, which puts out fires without water and without damaging electronics. These systems are widely used in data centers, telecom facilities and control rooms.

What does Hodgeman County get out of it?

A project of this size brings construction work, permanent technical jobs and new property tax base for schools, roads and public safety, depending on how local tax agreements are structured. Any incentives are negotiated in public with county officials. Strong data center partners also invest directly in the community, such as STEAM education and agriculture programs like FFA and 4-H.

If one data center is approved, will more follow?

The county keeps control. Zoning designations, conditional use permits, site plan review and setback standards all stay in local hands, and each future proposal would go through its own review.

Source: LandApp, Northern Virginia case study (Jan. 2025).

Is this a done deal?

No. SFP 243 requires a conditional use permit from Hodgeman County, including public notice and a hearing. Residents will have a chance to be heard before any decision is made.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

COMMUNITY MEETING

Monday, November 30, 2026

Hosted by Hodgeman County. Time, location and registration details will be posted on the county website and Facebook page.

The county is planning ways for every resident to take part, including advance registration to speak and the option to submit written questions for those who prefer not to speak publicly. Stellar Forge will attend, answer questions directly, and follow up in writing on anything that needs more research.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THEN? **acquisition@stellarforgecompute.com**

KEY SOURCES

Kansas SB 98 (2025); Kansas Corporation Commission Large-Load Tariff Order (Nov. 6, 2025); Kansas Reflector (Nov. 2025); Utility Dive (Nov. 2025); International Energy Agency via Network World (Feb. 2026); Environmental and Energy Study Institute (2025); TechTarget (2024); C&C Technology Group (2024); Ramboll Engineering (Dec. 2024); Grid Strategies LLC, National Load Growth Report (2025); Schneider Electric (Feb. 2026); Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School (2026); WYEDC citing CBRE Research (2025); LandApp (Jan. 2025).