

DATA CENTER SITING ISSUES. WHY NOT HERE?

- Massive land requirements. 200 acres or 2000 acres or 4 square miles.
- Noisy cooling systems and noisy backup electricity generators. Often diesel generators.
- 2-3 years of heavy construction, trucks, cranes, loss of peaceful surroundings.
- Huge and ugly with 40 to 60-foot walls. Disturbing nighttime security light pollution.
- Large electricity demand, new transmission lines, higher electricity rates for residents.
- Possible large water demand from aquifers or municipal water systems.
- Large real estate and sales tax abatements...yielding a small number of long-term jobs.
- Secrecy and non-disclosure agreements turn neutrality into opposition.
- Fear that home values may decrease.
- Rural residents feel productive farmland is disappearing, along with a quiet lifestyle.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants. Thermal discharges.

Across Federal agencies, the message is consistent:

Data centers are:

- Critical infrastructure
- National security assets
- Essential for AI leadership
- Required for economic competitiveness
- Necessary for scientific and defense computing
- In need of rapid expansion

And the government believes:

- The U.S. must build **more** data centers
- They must be **domestic**
- They must be **secure**
- They must be **high-performance**
- They must support **AI at scale**

This is why federal policy is pushing for **massive new data center construction**, even as local communities struggle with noise, land use, energy, economic, and resource concerns.

Other Industrial Neighbors That Are Often Considered Less Desirable Than Data Centers.

Gravel pits, steel mills, foundries, coal mines or strip mines, landfills, smelters, petrochemical plants, stamping/forging operations.

Gary M. Bramble, PE of Fair Play Environmental, LLC with assistance from MS CoPilot.
gbramble@roadrunner.com. Text (513) 239-9808.

Company	Chief Executive	Data Center Role	AI, Cloud, or Software Products
Amazon Web Services (AWS)	Andy Jassy	Builds and operates large-scale cloud data centers	Bedrock, SageMaker, Trainium
Microsoft	Satya Nadella	Builds and operates global cloud and AI data centers	Copilot, Azure AI, Phi-3
Google	Sundar Pichai	Builds and operates cloud and AI data centers	Gemini, Vertex AI, TensorFlow
Meta	Mark Zuckerberg	Builds data centers to support social platforms and AI workloads	Llama, Meta AI
NVIDIA	Jensen Huang	Supplies GPUs and systems that power AI data centers	CUDA, DGX Cloud
IBM	Arvind Krishna	Operates infrastructure that supports enterprise cloud and AI services	watsonx, OpenShift
Equinix	Charles Meyers	Builds and operates colocation and interconnection data centers	Fabric, Bare Metal
Digital Realty	Andy Power	Builds and operates global data center campuses	ServiceFabric
Holder Construction	Private company	Major builder of data center facilities	None identified
DPR Construction	George Pfeffer	Builds data center and mission-critical facilities	None identified
Mortenson	Dan Johnson	Builds data center and energy-related facilities	None identified
Turner Construction	Peter Davoren	Builds data center and mission-critical projects	None identified
AECOM	Troy Rudd	Provides engineering and design support for data center projects	Engineering software
CoreWeave	Michael Intrator	Operates GPU cloud infrastructure for AI workloads	GPU cloud services

Wattage Examples:

- Hair dryers and home space heaters use a little more than 1000 watts (1 kilowatt).
- Many homes average about 1250 watts per hour in support of HVAC, electronics, lighting, garage door openers, refrigerators, ovens, etc. (900 or more kilowatt hours per month, which approaches the equivalent of 1MW-hour of energy for the month.
- It takes more than 1 MW to support 1000 homes.
- A typical coal-fired boiler unit can generate 600 MW. New single-cycle natural gas combustion turbines are often 20-75MW.
- The AES Stuart Station had four 600 MW units for a total of 2400 MW (2.4 gigawatts)

Top 10 States for Current or Planned Total Data Center Capacity as reported in PoweredByWho's July 2026 state-by-state dataset.

State	MW	State	MW
Texas	79,118 MW	Utah	15,924 MW
Virginia	32,835 MW	Arizona	13,853 MW
Pennsylvania	22,413 MW	New Mexico	12,894 MW
Ohio	19,914 MW	Indiana	11,224 MW
Georgia	17,314 MW	Illinois	10,440 MW



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