

# Data Centers Workgroup

## Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
868	104	0	46	27

Let us know your thoughts about the data center industry in Frederick County.

**Elizabeth Law** Office of Peoples Council Letter in Response to PJM Dec. 2023 Reliability Analysis

PJM was tasked with determining how requested power could be delivered to datacenters in Virginia and Maryland. On Dec 5, PJM released its Reliability Assessment which proposes projects to deliver 7500 MW at a cost of \$ 5B. See link: Pages 2, 48 and 58 are relevant to Frederick County.

<https://www.pjm.com/-/media/committees-groups/committees/teac/2023/20231205/20231205-item-15---reliability-analysis-update-2022-window-3.ashx>

PJM's estimate of \$5 B for transmission infrastructure:

PJM Board of Managers Approves Critical Grid Upgrades | PJM Inside Lines

In its Dec. 8, 2023, letter to PJM, the Office of Peoples Council (OPC) suggests that the transmission infrastructure cost should be borne by local ratepayers. This is because the OPC sees the datacenters as the reason of the transmission infrastructure costs.

Per page 3 of the letter:

"Nevertheless, the major driver for the W3 procurement is an unprecedented "spot" load growth in a tightly focused geographic area equal to or greater than the size of the peak load in some of PJM's existing locational deliverability areas."

"[T] the major beneficiaries will be the retail electric companies directly interconnecting with the data centers (that's the utilities like First Energy and Potomac Energy) while some substantial portion of the costs will be visited on all other end-use electric customers in the PJM footprint who will pay, but not be similarly benefitted. "

"[T] the stark and distinguishing difference here is the dramatically unprecedented nature of the imbalance."

See: 20231208-pjm-board-letter-2023-12-08-md-opc-final.ashx )

Thank you,

Elizabeth (Betty) Law

Please see attached Office of Peoples Council Letter in Response to PJM Dec 2023 Reliability Analysis. See also NPC Poster on Relative sizes of transmission towers.



[OPC Letter to PJM and NPS Poster.docx](#)



[EIS -NPSposter\\_10trans101 lores.pdf](#)

3 hours ago

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Thank you,

Elizabeth (Betty) Law

4 hours ago

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**John Schermerhorn** I am extremely sensitive to low/high pitched noise. I am very concerned due to the proximity of the datacenter to my home that I will not be able to enjoy the outdoors without being auditory violated by the drum of machinery/cooling/generators.

I am also concerned with the quantity and volume of expected facility lighting. I believe lighting should be low intensity, or motion activated for security - NOT "parking lot" level lighting. What exactly is planned? How will noise be neutralized to ensure citizens nearby cannot hear machinery, and how will the lighting be dampened to ensure no light pollution, or obstructive/harsh lighting is emitted? If you want support from me, my family, and those around - these items need to be addressed in a capacity that FAR exceeds the minimum by law. Please do better, be the best there is - and be a good neighboring industry/employer.

4 days ago

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**Nick Carrera** Data Center Revenue for the Loudoun County Budget

The Data Centers Workgroup was created June 22, 2023, by County Executive Jessica Fitzwater "to examine existing laws and other issues related to this relatively new and rapidly changing industry." The Workgroup invited Buddy Rizer, of the Loudoun County Economic Development Office, to speak to the group on November 15, 2023. These are figures he presented for data centers in Loudoun Co.

Revenue from data centers: \$750 M

Providing to county budget: 1/3 of the county budget

County land occupied: 8%

Mr. Rizer also noted that, unlike Maryland, Virginia taxes personal property. Without that tax, data center revenue would be reduced by 85%.

Applying that reduction, to see how Loudoun County would fare without personal property tax:

Loudoun County without personal property tax:

Revenue from data centers: \$112.5 M

Providing to county budget: 5% of the county budget

County land occupied: 8%

Comment: Data centers can be a good source of revenue, provided not too much is "given away" in incentives to lure them to Maryland, but they will not provide the same tax "windfall" that Virginia experiences.

8 days ago

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**Nick Carrera** Well, I see I'd gone to the wrong web site -- I just now went to the FCo Govt site and searched there for the work group and found the list of your members. But I still don't who is who, so pictures would be nice, like they have for County Council members. And I still want to know what subcommittees you have formed, and who is on them. I wonder too if with Pat Murray leaving, you'll decide to be more open in your meetings, and allow public attendance at sub-committee meetings. Thanks

8 days ago

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**Donna Buck** Regarding locations of data centers in Frederick County, since we already have data centers in Urbana I am requesting that the committee recommend allowing data centers in the corridor between Route 270 and Route 355 from Route 80 south to the Montgomery County Line. It makes sense to allow data centers in this area since this area is in a prime growth area and already contains existing data centers.

12 days ago

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Does not belong in Adamstown

22 days ago

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**Dr. Larry Romane, M.D.** As a physician, toxicology comes under my field of expertise. Developing the East Alco site is a "clear and present danger" to construction crews, end-use employees, and the water supply of local residents. Question: Would any of your group dig a well and build your family home on this site?

25 days ago

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**Nick Carrera** Well, I see I'd gone to the wrong web site -- I just now went to the FCo Govt site and searched there for the work group and found the list of your members. But I still don't who is who, so pictures would be nice, like they have for County Council members. And I still want to know what subcommittees you have formed, and who is on them. I wonder too if with Pat Murray leaving, you'll decide to be more open in your meetings, and allow public attendance at sub-committee meetings. Thanks

27 days ago

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**Nick Carrera** This is really about the WG itself. I've been to your public meetings, but I don't know the WG members. Could you list them on this web site? Maybe even link them to the picture, so I could see who is who. And could you list the sub-committees you formed, and who is on each of them. Thanks.

27 days ago

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**Donna Buck** We support the data center industry in Frederick County. We would like to see data centers allowed in ORI (Office Research Industrial) zones as well as LI and GI. Can your work group consider the allowance of data centers in ORI in your recommendation to the County Executive?

one month ago

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I suggest a subgroup be added the the workgroup that includes citizens of Adamstown.

one month ago

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**David E Reeves** Data centers should be sited in previous industrial zoned and used land, such as the former EastAlco site. They should not be cited on currently zoned agricultural land. Data centers should be required to be co-sited with renewable energy facilities (solar, wind) that will produce enough electric power for the entire data center. Data centers also should be located in proximity to electric power transmission facilities and high tension wires, for times when renewable energy facilities onsite vary in production, and are not producing enough electricity, and extra electricity must be pulled from the grid or from storage such as batteries.

one month ago

**Doug Boucher** Thanks for asking our views. I'm not opposed to data centers in general; I'm well aware that I'm using one right now as I write this online response. And I use one (or many) every day as I send emails and surf the web and look at videos and all the other online stuff I do.

But .... I also know that data centers consume large amounts of electrical power, and that most of that now comes from fossil fuels and thus worsens the already-disastrous problem of climate change. So, if data centers are going to take electrical power from the grid, they should be required to produce at least as much renewable energy in return.

And, just to be clear, when I say "produce", that's what I mean -- not "buy". It means establishing projects, either solar or wind, that will generate electricity that goes into the same grid that they take electricity out of.

I could go on in detail ---SRECs, storage, transmission, distribution, etc. -- but the fundamental point is pretty simple. The price for allowing data centers to take power out of the grid, is that they put at least as much new clean power back into it.

one month ago

**Annette Tinder** I live in the neighborhood adjacent to QL Frederick in Adamstown. When creating the CDI my concern is light pollution, maintaining the rural feel with open spaces, and noise pollution. Also, as roads have to be widened, no light signals...use rotary. It's awful on on the corner of New Design and English Muffin Way that those town home and apartments now have to deal with signal and street lights shining into their home 24 hours/7 days a week. Also, I was on the CMRC board when Alcoa donated land for a future park expansion. I would propose that a fund be sent up by the data centers as condition to build to contribute toward a community park. The land is already there.

Community Park Forestation Project

<https://www.carrollmanorathletic.com/page/show/708681-community-park-development>

Land Donation Ceremony (October 19, 2012)

[https://www.carrollmanorathletic.com/news\\_article/show/200642](https://www.carrollmanorathletic.com/news_article/show/200642)

The Frederick News Post article and Pictures are no longer accessible.

We Won (January 26, 2013)

[https://www.carrollmanorathletic.com/news\\_article/show/217388](https://www.carrollmanorathletic.com/news_article/show/217388)

CMRC Park Conceptual Design (Pipe Dream)

[https://www.carrollmanorathletic.com/news\\_article/show/200592](https://www.carrollmanorathletic.com/news_article/show/200592)

Please continue to hold work group meetings at CMES to allow residents to be a part of the input on the CDI.

Thank you for your consideration.

one month ago

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Data centers are a toxic wasteland for energy consumption. They produce noise pollution, do not help with jobs or other much needed infrastructure that the county is currently lacking for the massive increase in housing and population have seen within the last few years. There are many bald eagles in this area and noise pollution has shown to have a detrimental effect on our ecosystem. Money should go to more green options especially after seeing the former nuclear plant site have fluoride dumped into local water ways. This county councils priorities have been a major disappointment which I wish the rest of the county would see. Nothing but allowing things to pass and failure to make businesses like construction companies keep their end of the deal in helping maintain the quality of living.

2 months ago

**Patrice Gallagher** Hello, I've been able to watch the first two workgroup meetings and have appreciated that opportunity, since I've not been able to attend in person. I'd like to urge you to make all of your meetings available virtually, even if only by video a day later.

But my main comment is to urge you to hold a meeting — or at least a discussion — that will let the public (i.e. taxpayers) know what the tax/revenue benefits will be to our County. We hear about it constantly in general, glowing terms from various electeds and business folks, but I believe there are many members of the public who would like to hear specific numbers... both costs to the County and revenues.

Thanks so much for your service. This is such an important issue to get right, before the situation is out of our control.

2 months ago

**Mike Evans** Who need progress or tax revenue, lets just keep taxing everyone to death and not bring in any new money. Who needs jobs here when we can keep commuting for 2 hours a day into VA or DC. It seems like a lot of people who don't work anymore and probably never had a kid in schools here are really worried about farm land that they don't actually farm. Also let's keep giving tax breaks to those same old people with big yards who own 2 houses so they can spend their money at a winery in Loudoun county where some poor schmuck works for tips. I'm sure the planning people who keep trying to add new townhouses and not put any new businesses in are on top of things.

2 months ago

**Kwon Park** Absolutely 🙏 need

2 months ago

**Kim Rhoades** I support the data center . I am à ibew union electrician and live in frederick county

2 months ago

**Scott Noteboom** I am supportive of the industry and think that, if done right, will be large benefit to the county and people. Frederick County is the first community to preemptively build a foundation of data center regulation before large data centers exist. This is something we should be proud of.

2 months ago

**Michael P Glumac** I think it's a wonderful oppurtunity that will not only be beneficial to our community by building environmentally friendly buildings instead of more housing developments but will also bring a potentially endless supply of tax revenue to build up Frederick Counties different dilapidated infrastructures!! These data centers WILL be built one way or another!! If they're not built in MD, they WILL be built in VA!!! Frederick County has the unique opportunity to become part of the east coast epicenter of the data storage world...I implore my local representatives AND taxpayers to support the building of these data centers and to do whatever it takes move forward with the construction processes as soon as possible!! So that we may reap ALL the positive benefits of making such a decision!! Just imagine, the widening of I-270 without any impact on the local, state, or federal taxpayers!?!

2 months ago



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**Michael P Glumac** Being a constituent of Frederick County, MD, we need the tax revenue from these zero net carbon buildings can bring to our communities!! Much of Frederick Counties different infrastructures are still old and dilapidated. The BILLIONS of dollar that can be provided would help us move into the 21st century becoming part of the data storage epicenter of the east coast!! This idea holds no limits for Frederick County heading into the future!! Which would you rather have, more subdivisions bringing more people, more traffic, more trash and more pollution creating more wear and tear on an already dilapidated infrastructure OR a bunch of community and environmentally friendly buildings supplying a potentially infinite amount of tax revenue to build new and upgrade old infrastructures?!?! We all know, if we don't get behind building these data centers ASAP, then we will have countless more houses built, that will on a whole, bring ONLY negative impacts on the local communities that are already here!!!

2 months ago

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**Nick Carrera** It appears that Frederick supporters of data center complexes are judging expected benefits here by those experienced in Northern Virginia, but Maryland and Virginia have different taxes and incentives. Moreover, county and state both seem loath to be fully open regarding what taxes will actually be collected from data centers in Frederick County. This raises sincere doubts about the real benefits of these proposed data centers.

2 months ago

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**Mike McKew.** I believe this project will be great for Frederick county. Providing great employment opportunities and careers to the local Marylanders. Data center's are the future and it's great to see here in Maryland.

2 months ago

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**Dan Berwanger** I think it is completely possible to bring modern industry into a historically agricultural district. That being said we need all sides on the same page. And the only way to do so is through education and more workshops such as these.

2 months ago

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Agricultural Preservation Map Shows that the Data center is in the middle of the area that is suppose to be Preserved. Where will all the Water come from if Pumped out of the Aquifer? There may not much left for Farming.

3 months ago

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## Data Centers Workgroup,

Thank you for your efforts with this important endeavor. We were able to attend the August 30th meeting, but had to leave prior to speaking. While the expected opposition was present at the meeting, we left feeling there is tremendous support for Data Centers in Frederick County. The overwhelmingly positive benefits: cutting edge technology, environmental improvements for the Alcoa site, enhancements to the power grid / IT infrastructure, employment opportunities, construction projects, real estate and significant county tax revenue is undeniable. While there are many issues to address, the issues seem identifiable and solvable.

Please don't allow individuals trying to instill fear keep Frederick County from these opportunities. Statements such as: infants will go deaf, millions of gallons of diesel will pollute groundwater, you need to do this, you need to do that, this is how you need to do your job are not constructive. Data Centers sited in proper locations with existing infrastructure (roads, electrical supply, IT conduit), that are designed to have minimal impact (indoor sound-proofed generators, berms, screening) should be a home run WIN for Frederick County MD. The silent majority of Frederick County residents and the regional economy will thank you!

3 months ago

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**Nick Carrera** Would you please widen this space for leaving messages. It just "feels" confining.

Some thoughts prompted by last night's meeting:

It was good to hear the "meaty" presentations, for example, from the men who spoke first, on water and power issues. As someone suggested later, you'll also want "meaty" presentations from data center people, and can sort out claims from facts.

I was especially intrigued by the comment about multi-story buildings and the added efficiency they offer. The pushback offered, that the current ordinance doesn't allow that, is irrelevant for your purposes; you're trying to craft an appropriate ordinance for Frederick County. In touring center locations recently in Loudoun and Prince William Counties I saw several multi-story centers, I think some were even three-story. Another thing for your architecture sub-group to consider might be best use for the roof. I think they often place the heat exchangers on the roof, and maybe that takes up all the space; but if not, could some space be used for solar panels?

The concerns raised about storm water are especially important for our county. Runoff from those large buildings should be treated as an asset, not a nuisance. It should be routed so that, insofar as possible, it ends up where it would have gone in absence of the buildings: underground, to recharge our aquifers.

Another thought, and especially if you go to multi-story buildings. I was most impressed/depressed at viewing, in Prince William County, a multi-story data center building under construction not 200 or 300 feet from the backyard of a housing development. It's the one that's been pictured in some newspapers. As a "screen" there were some spindly saplings planted. By the time they grow to "screening" size, it'll be time for the building to be razed and a more modern installation built. In your ordinance, you might want to require that existing trees be left in place, to the extent possible, of course, and that new trees for screening be of a certain size, not just saplings struggling to survive.

I'm going to try to attach the comments I offered last night. If I fail, I'll try to send another way.

3 months ago

**Donnie Meloy** As a frederick county resident and a finance professional, I understand the potential revenue benefits that can come from the data center development and the reason why the county appears to be bending over backwards to push development. There's certainly a tested blueprint in place and future adjustment is always available. Further, I fully endorse the development of previously corrupted land as opposed to having no plan and leaving such space idle and serving no benefit. Obviously there are environmental challenges to that, otherwise the land would have been developed years ago, which should require significant monitoring for adherence to environmental compliance standards that had effectively held back development in the first place (fines are another revenue stream).

My concern is as a resident of adamstown itself. I understand, and fully believe, the workgroup and any other commissions can figure out the environmental, power and water concerns to make the project viable and in line with the collective goals of the county and state as is their charge. What has not been addressed, by either the government or the companies involved, is how the benefits derived (form of tax revenues, or jobs/dues for our IEW friends) are going to be returned to the immediate area of development. Based on existing frederick county plans and discussions, development of further livable and greenspaces are planned for the north western parts of the county. Such development plans seem to stop just below I270. In addition to the environmental concerns of the project, I believe the charge of this commission/workgroup, must be consideration of the change in the quality of life to the area. I'm not a "not in my backyard person," as noted above I welcome progress. However, I believe such thinking is warranted if the goal is to effectively create a dumping ground of airport level noise, working traffic (depending on the job numbers presented), and general degradation of the area to pay for the planned betterment of the rest of the county.

The planned benefits to be derived for the county as a whole must also include benefits to those that are going to see the greatest impact. I propose that the commission require planning livable and infrastructure space development in partnership between both the private companies involved and the county, to ensure that this, and future development in the area is integrated into an immediate community plan. Even the steel towns of the past, while later determined to be destructive (which this may be determined to be as well anyway), provided a benefit to the immediate area. Not having any plan to support the area and people that live there would seem negligent and make the county appear to be blinded by the potential dollar signs at the sacrifice of a smaller (but hopefully not considered to be insignificant to the plans of the county government and companies involved) population of the county, who have been and will continue to provide their share of tax dollars to the county as well. Development of any kind should provide for the benefit of the community. Further potential housing and recreational greenspace, and the protection of existing agricultural concerns, when included in the addition of "light industrial" development ensures a cohesive and sustainable developmental approach to an area. It also addresses the "not in my backyard" dumping ground concerns that are growing throughout the area regarding both this and inevitable future developments.

Thank you for your concern and attention.

3 months ago

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**Matt Seubert** Dear members of the DCWG:

The future of data storage technology is rapidly evolving and will likely result in a significant downsizing of the technology away from the clumsy, energy intensive, monolithic buildings of today.

We're talking synthetic DNA, holograms and other stuff of science fiction which, as human history has demonstrated time and again, have a habit of quickly becoming science fact.

My major concern with these buildings is; what are the plans to repurpose them down the road when the storage technology downsizes and displaces the need for them? They are in essence, single-use facilities that may very well go the way of the UNIVAC and punch-card computing in the not too distant future. The last thing anyone, anywhere needs is to be stuck with these massive, stranded assets 20/30/50 years down the road.

So from my perspective, any decisions we make now on whether to welcome sprawling DC campuses to Frederick need to be made with a thorough understanding of what their anticipated lifecycle is, what is the plan for them at the end of it, and how could they be repurposed if need be (if at all)?

Thank you,

Matt Seubert  
Urbana

3 months ago

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**cindy heivilin** Not in favor. Seems you put the cart before the horse. Many questions about water, electrical grid, taxes, incentives. Very worried that this was NOT thought out, but jumped into. Why does Frederick County HAVE to become a NVA? Why cant we just wonderful Frederick County? And, I cannot even find any paperwork that shows just what you promised Quantum Loophole. Where is the paperwork?

3 months ago

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**Eric Whitenton** Attached is my letter to the Data Centers Workgroup. I would like to read first page at the meeting. However, if there is not time, I am OK since this will be entered into the public record for the meeting.



[Quantum-EricWhitentonLetter.pdf](#)

3 months ago

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**Marc Pepper** I am a federal employee and Building Manager at the 4.5MW Data Center in Urbana for the SSA. Frederick county has a great opportunity to be the center of data/telecommunications infrastructure for the east coast of the USA. We have a strong framework ready to support the future.

3 months ago

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**Nick Carrera** First, at the full group's first meeting, Pat Murray was too quick to dictate that sub-groups that didn't reach quorum size did not have to hold their meetings in public. Such a closed policy could allow the kind of poor decisions that are now plaguing citizens and governing bodies alike in Northern Virginia. Second, who gets these comments? Is it the full Workgroup, or does Murray or someone else decide whether to pass comments on to members or not? Third, in referring to "the data center industry in Frederick County," you are showing your bias and acting as if it's a "done deal." If so, you may be buying a pig in a poke. Quantum Loophole and Aligned Data Centers have so far behaved like the "gang that couldn't shoot straight." If their record is indicative of how they and the industry as a whole will operate, the county should be leery of having anything to do with this "industry." If CE Fitzwater established the Workgroup in good faith and members work in good faith, we can end up with data centers that are well designed, acceptable to the community, and are a benefit at the county. If the Workgroup was established only as a "cover," and members are not working in good faith, we'll end up like Loudoun County, Prince William County, and others, with badly designed and sited data centers, causing unhappy citizens, and harsh feelings between voters and officials. And finally, you have, in this public portal, created a very clumsy way for interested citizens to communicate with the Workgroup. Why can't it be along the lines used by County Council or Planning Commission?

3 months ago

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## VoiceMail Comments

Okay. Can you do coffee? Okay. Can you bring turnover? Aren't anymore what? Aren't anymore. Or any left? No, I only had one. Well, most people had one. I had to, okay. Well I have a headache.

29 days ago 

Good evening. My name is M Carrera. I live in just outside of Urbana, and I guess I had trouble getting online to talk to you live, but I think I followed all your directions. I dialed the right number, put in the, the code and pressed star three, but I was the one that you spoke of as having difficulty getting, getting connected. So I'm trying this, I have, I had difficulty getting an idea of your agenda for tonight's meeting. I find your website difficult to get around. It doesn't really seem to be well organized so that we have a good idea what's going to happen at the next meeting regarding meetings. I hope you're not going to do all these meetings virtual. I think that's a very bad way to proceed. It's much better to have public meetings where everybody can be there, see one another and participate a in a live manner. Now, specific comments on the ben, the financial benefits of data centers. I and others have tried very hard to find out what the real financial benefits are going to be to the county for Fred, for data centers in Frederick County, there are, there are wild claims thrown around. Many of them are based on the financial benefits that are available in Virginia. The tax benefits in Virginia, which are totally different from those that are, that apply in Maryland, it would be useful for the subgroup that's working on this to find out just what the financial incentives are going to be for data centers, what the county is going to get, offer in tax incentives, what the state will offer in tax incentives, what the bottom line will be if you can do it on a, maybe on a per square foot basis or something like that. So that one can get an idea of how much really these data centers that are proposed for the quantum quantum loophole, what, how much those will contribute to the, to the taxes that we pay in Frederick County and the taxes that we pay in VER in Maryland. And it would be very useful to put those in writing on your website so that people can actually see what's going on. Then there's not gonna be these wild claims going around, which can differ so much. Well, thank you very much. That ought to be something easy to find out because if you can't find it out and get it really nailed down, then we're just shooting in the dark and we're taking, then we're being taken advantage of by the claims from people that just wanna push data centers no matter what. Okay. Well thanks for listening. Again, my name is Nick Carrera. I live on Thurston Road not far from downtown Urbana. Thank you. Goodnight.

2 months ago 

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## Comments: Data Centers Workgroup

### Comments: Community Meeting for Data Centers Workgroup

Agricultural Preservation Map Shows that the Data center is in the middle of the area that is suppose to be Preserved. Where will all the Water come from if Pumped out of the Aquifer? There may not much left for Farming.

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3 months ago

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I am a federal employee and Building Manager at the 4.5MW Data Center in Urbana for the SSA. Frederick county has a great opportunity to be the center of data/telecommunications infrastructure for the east coast of the USA. We have a strong framework ready to support the future.

3 months ago

## Comments: Data Centers Workgroup (Sept. 27)

Good evening. My name is M Carrera. I live in just outside of Urbana, and I guess I had trouble getting online to talk to you live, but I think I followed all your directions. I dialed the right number, put in the, the code and pressed star three, but I was the one that you spoke of as having difficulty getting, getting connected. So I'm trying this, I have, I had difficulty getting an idea of your agenda for tonight's meeting. I find your website difficult to get around. It doesn't really seem to be well organized so that we have a good idea what's going to happen at the next meeting regarding meetings. I hope you're not going to do all these meetings virtual. I think that's a very bad way to proceed. It's much better to have public meetings where everybody can be there, see one another and participate in a live manner. Now, specific comments on the ben, the financial benefits of data centers. I and others have tried very hard to find out what the real financial benefits are going to be to the county for Fred, for data centers in Frederick County, there are, there are wild claims thrown around. Many of them are based on the financial benefits that are available in Virginia. The tax benefits in Virginia, which are totally different from those that are, that apply in Maryland, it would be useful for the subgroup that's working on this to find out just what the financial incentives are going to be for data centers, what the county is going to get, offer in tax incentives, what the state will offer in tax incentives, what the bottom line will be if you can do it on a, maybe on a per square foot basis or something like that. So that one can get an idea of how much really these data centers that are proposed for the quantum quantum loophole, what, how much those will contribute to the, to the taxes that we pay in Frederick County and the taxes that we pay in VER in Maryland. And it would be very useful to put those in writing on your website so that people can actually see what's going on. Then there's not gonna be these wild claims going around, which can differ so much. Well, thank you very much. That ought to be something easy to find out because if you can't find it out and get it really nailed down, then we're just shooting in the dark and we're taking, then we're being taken advantage of by the claims from people that just wanna push data centers no matter what. Okay. Well thanks for listening. Again, my name is Nick Carrera. I live on Thurston Road not far from downtown Urbana. Thank you. Goodnight.

2 months ago 

Are any of the experts addressing any of the subgroups from actual data center end users or developers? Thank you

2 months ago

End users are being invited to future meetings. The meetings will either be streamed live or, if they are held in the community, recorded. Either way, the videos ultimately will be posted to this web page.

2 months ago

200 history Frederick  
Now 200years FUTHER  
Platform database center history on  
SALUTE

2 months ago



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I live Frederick MD  
IBEW LU26 PROUDLY

2 months ago

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Need fb ctr.  
I was 6 build project va state

2 months ago

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I'm a local 26 electrician and also live in Frederick county . I very much would like to have the data center in Frederick .

2 months ago

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What is the projected amount of yearly tax revenue that Frederick County will receive from the Quantum Loophole and projects like theirs be?

2 months ago

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I'm a good standing member of the IBEW LU26 for 24 years. I have seen first hand the results of the enormous amount of extra tax revenue these data centers can bring having worked in Prince William and Loudon counties in Northern Virginia. I grew up in Montgomery County, MD and have seen the huge negative impacts on the environment and various infrastructures that carelessly handing out new subdivision building permits can have on an area. Frederick County is going down the exact same road as Montgomery!! When construction of these data centers are done, we won't have thousands of families moving here with more trash, more traffic, and more pollution!! We will have zero net carbon buildings pumping potentially BILLIONS in tax revenue for our schools, infrastructure, and local economy!! The cost of widening I-270, which has been necessary for at least 30 years, will be an afterthought!! Being a local constituent, I would hate to see the opportunities that Quantum Loophole and Amazon data services offer, get past Frederick County!!

2 months ago

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I've found no agenda for this meeting, and it's not clear what the "virtual" mode will be -- online? on FCGTV? Are you not seeking to encourage public participation? Then get out the word!

2 months ago

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### Comments: Data Centers Workgroup (Nov. 15)

## **Office of Peoples Council Letter in Response to PJM Dec. 2023 Reliability Analysis**

PJM was tasked with determining how requested power could be delivered to datacenters in Virginia and Maryland. On Dec 5, PJM released its Reliability Assessment which proposes projects to deliver 7500 MW at a cost of \$ 5B.

See link: Pages 2, 48 and 58 are relevant to Frederick County.

<https://www.pjm.com/-/media/committees-groups/committees/teac/2023/20231205/20231205-item-15---reliability-analysis-update-2022-window-3.ashx>

PJM's estimate of \$5 B for transmission infrastructure:

[PJM Board of Managers Approves Critical Grid Upgrades | PJM Inside Lines](#)

In its Dec. 8, 2023, letter to PJM, the Office of Peoples Council (OPC) suggests that the transmission infrastructure cost should be borne by local ratepayers. This is because the OPC sees the datacenters as the reason of the transmission infrastructure costs.

Per page 3 of the letter:

“Nevertheless, the major driver for the W3 procurement is an unprecedented “spot” load growth in a tightly focused geographic area equal to or greater than the size of the peak load in some of PJM’s existing locational deliverability areas.”

“[T] the major beneficiaries will be the retail electric companies directly interconnecting with the data centers (that’s the utilities like First Energy and Potomac Energy) while some substantial portion of the costs will be visited on all other end-use electric customers in the PJM footprint who will pay, but not be similarly benefitted. “

“[T] the stark and distinguishing difference here is the dramatically unprecedented nature of the imbalance.”

See: [20231208-pjm-board-letter-2023-12-08-md-opc-final.ashx](#) )

Thank you,

Elizabeth (Betty) Law



# Environmental Impact Statement

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area  
Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River  
Appalachian National Scenic Trail

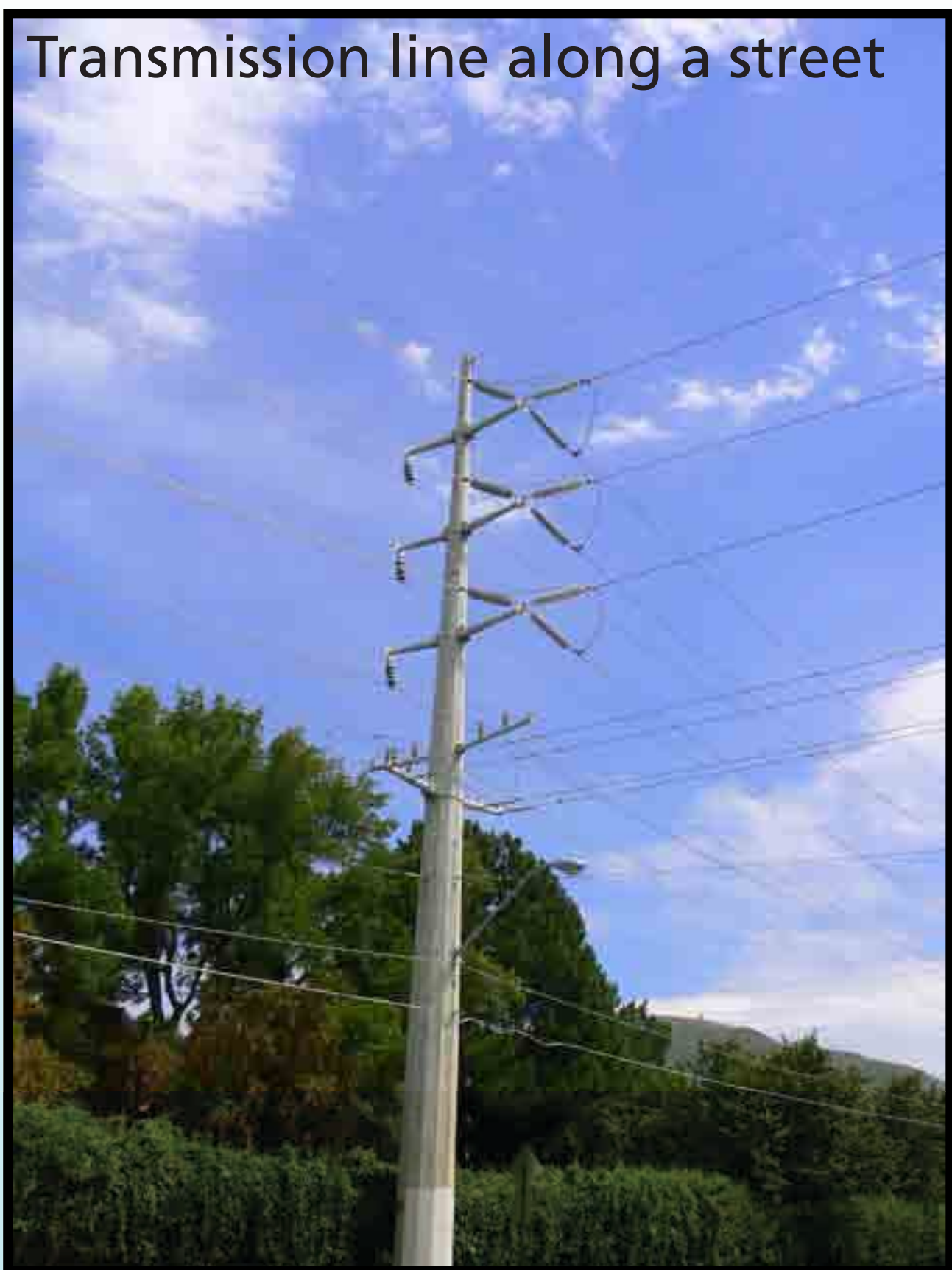
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Powering the Grid

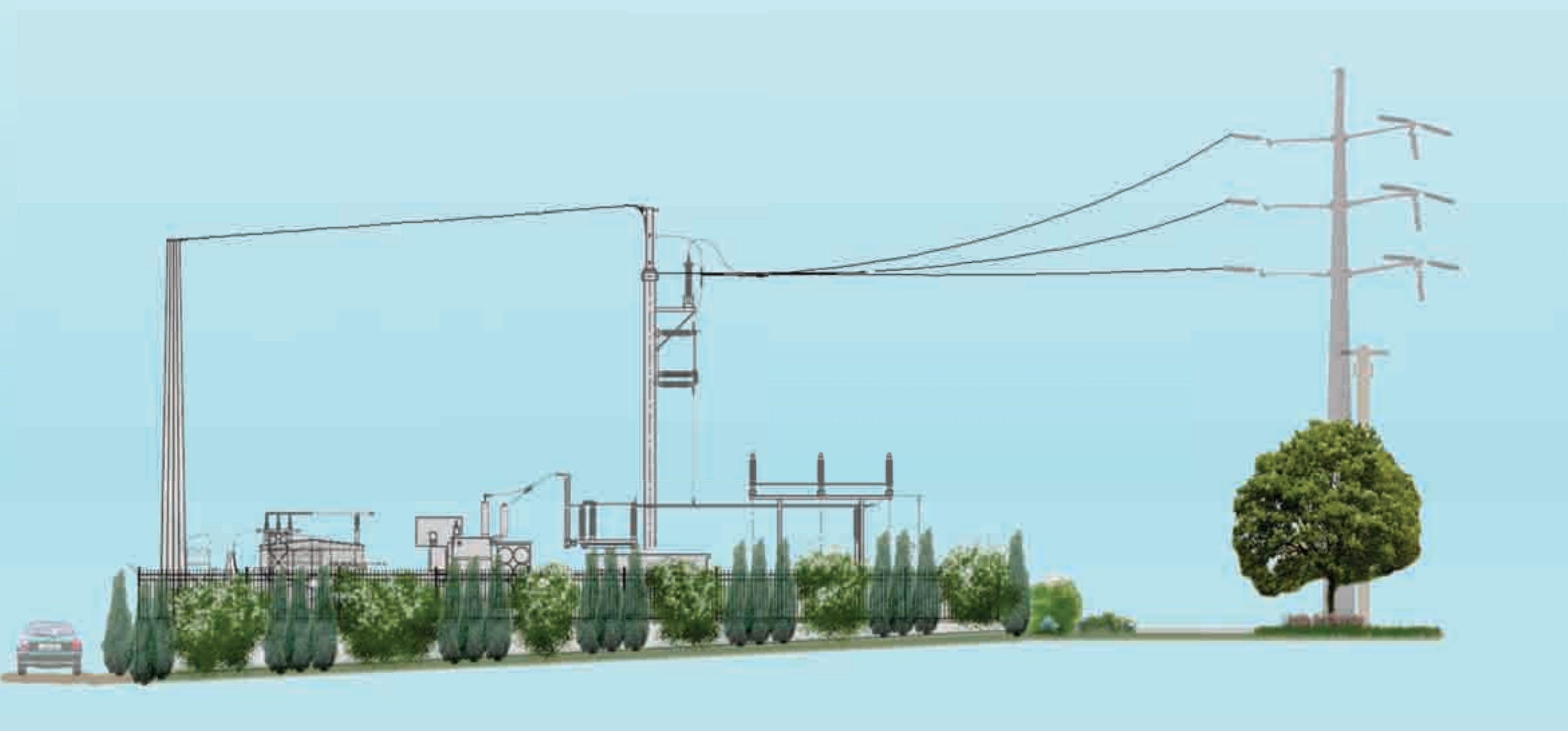
### Structure

- Typical 500kV structure height: 180-200 feet single pole or lattice towers.
- Most 500kV towers are made of galvanized steel to support large loads (wind, ice, and conductors).
- Transmission conductors carry current from generator (source) to load (substation), where it is reduced to usable power and placed on distribution lines as energy for end users.
- Conductors are typically made of aluminum, steel, and copper.
- Other structures help carry the conductor in angles and straight lines (tangent) to minimize costs and impacts.
- Larger wires can carry larger capacity but require much larger structures.



### Reliability

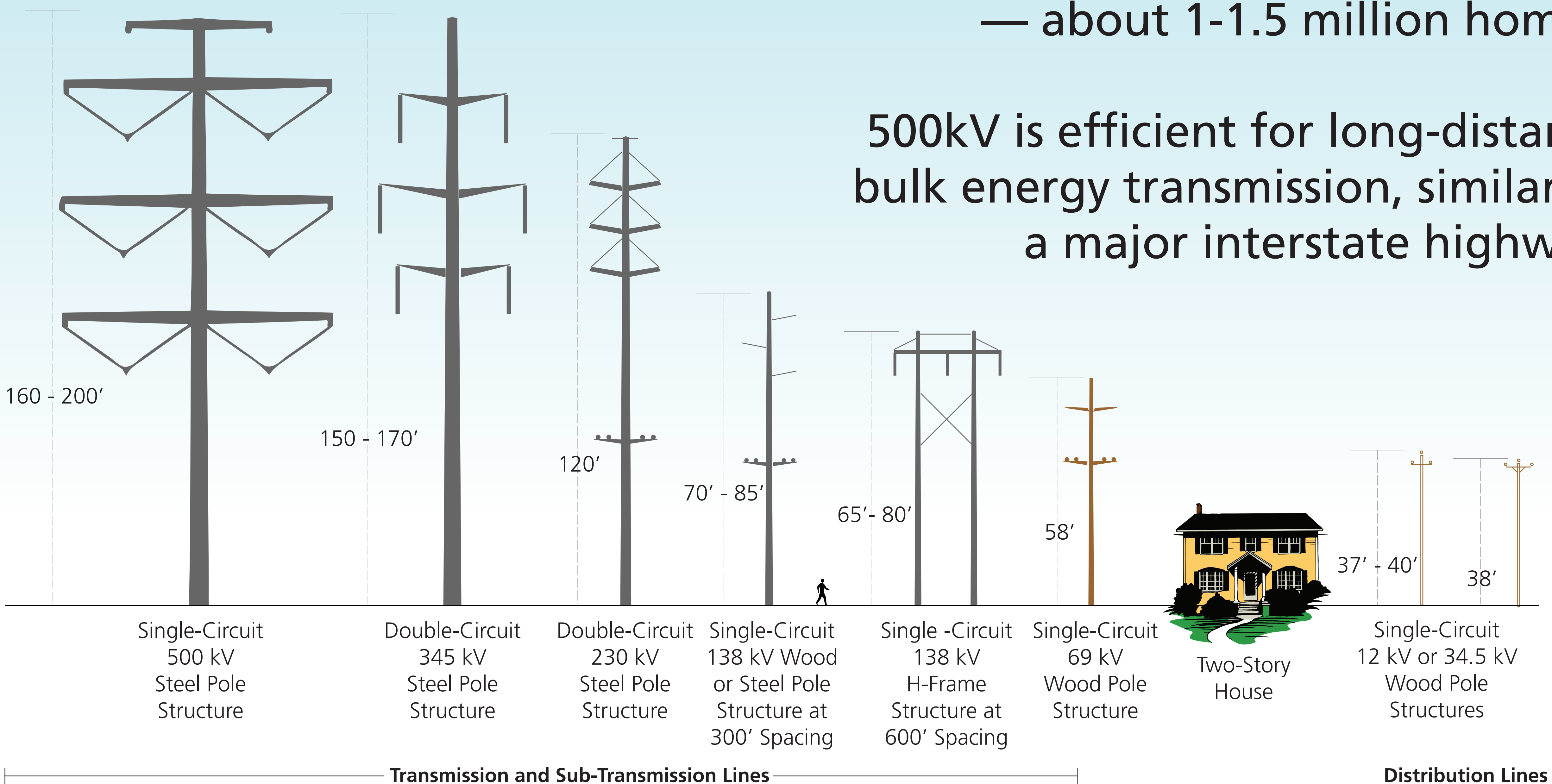
- Reliability standards are federally mandated.
- Utilities must report periodically to National Electric Reliability Commission (NERC) to ensure standards are implemented and maintained.
- The regional “main grid” transmission system must be able to survive the single worst condition.



### Transmission Lines

A 500kV (500,000 Volt) transmission line carries 1,000 to 1,500 Megawatts — about 1-1.5 million homes.

500kV is efficient for long-distance bulk energy transmission, similar to a major interstate highway.





Greetings:

I am a resident in Washington County. However, my elderly mom lives in Frederick County, adjacent to the old East Alco property. You are already aware of how Quantum has made a mess of the situation, especially when you consider how much neighbors wanted to give them the benefit of the doubt. Many are now feeling betrayed. My mom has asked me to deal with this issue on her behalf. Besides the current pollution issue, there is also the noise issue which may become a nightmare for neighbors long after the current pollution issues have (hopefully) been resolved. That is where you could potentially make a real difference. Please let me explain.

First, I will try to explain how you may really help. Second, I will give more details if you are interested.

First: how you could really help.

Quantum is building an infrastructure for up to 13 “server farms”, along with a fiber optic loop between Frederick and Virginia. Considering just the Frederick facility, one would think there would be few issues effecting neighbors. However, even putting aside issues related to both running fiber optic cables, and also responsible management while building the facilities, there are longer term issues of great concern. Due to the high power usage, and resulting heat generation, there is a significant noise issue with such facilities cause as they try to keep all these computers cool. There are families in Virginia who have had to literally move out of the first floor of there homes to move into their basements so they can sleep at night. Do we want that here?

Given how Quantum has mishandled the current environmental issues, I no longer trust them to respect future noise issues. While Frederick County is trying to write regs to deal with this, over the years I have learned that regulations mean nothing unless there is credible enforcement. As best as I can determine, currently if there is a loud noise episode at 3AM, neighbors have no recourse but to call the police and hope their loudness monitoring team can document the problem in time. In this day and age, why can't neighbors rely on automated monitoring that is taken seriously in court if it should come to that? Give us the legislative teeth so that victims of repeated offenders of loudness laws are able to efficiently and effectively bring offenders into compliance! If Quantum plans on consistently complying with regs, then they should have no objections. I submit that companies often rely on regs having no teeth. Please help us make the teeth!

Second, more details if you are interested:

Precedent.

In my youth, I spent time helping folks in Baltimore dealing with antiquated factories who chose to pour poisons into neighborhoods rather than modernize. I lived in Frederick at that time, but chose to spend time helping them as I could. One of the efforts was to train citizens to witness visible air emissions in a professional manor that would stand up in court as professional witnesses. I got my training certification, along with several others. Once there was frequent and repeated violations that went unpunished. Almost overnight industry magically either found ways to fix their messes or shut down because they were never going to stop polluting anyway. AMAZING. Obviously, the details would be different in this situation. However, the results are probably the same – Trust but verify. Given no recourse for breaking the rules, uncaring interests treat neighbors poorly. Politicians are to be held responsible for not giving citizens the tools needed to push back!

About me.

I am president of the currently hibernating 501c3 group, CPPV/UPSHOTMD located in Pleasant Valley, Washington County, MD.

<https://upshotmd.org>

I am maintaining a notebook on the Quantum issue. I encourage others to use if they wish. I (hopefully) add value in simple ways. For example, I take videos of public meeting and trim to the relevant portions so I/you do not have to wade through hours of irrelevant content.

<https://upshotmd.org/DCDR/>

By profession, I have a technical background. While I am not a sound engineer, I do have my name on many technical publications. If I have to spend a few thousand dollars on audio monitoring equipment, then so be it.

Thank You

Eric Whitenton

(and Tina Whitenton)