



# Energy Infrastructure and Data Centers



Piedmont  
Environmental  
Council



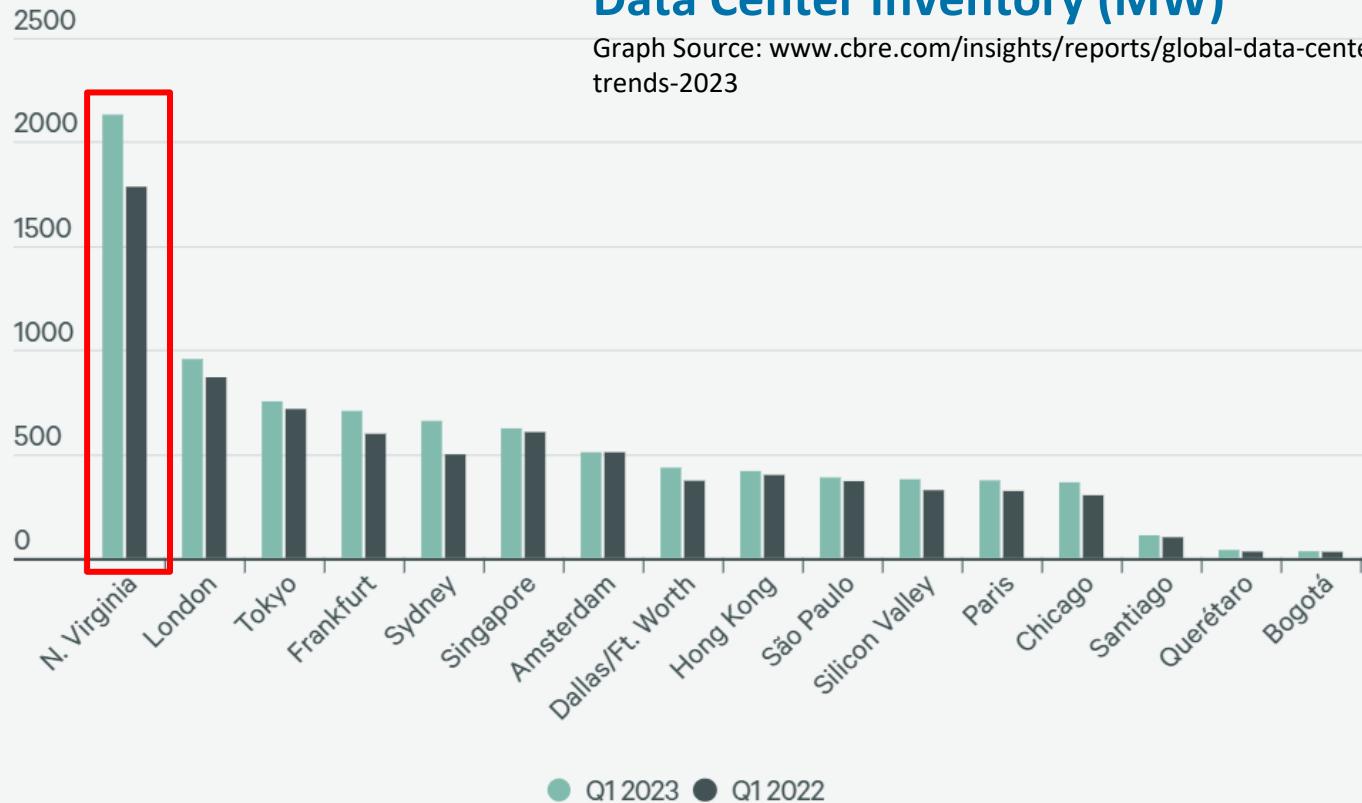
**Julie Bolthouse**  
Director of Land Use  
The Piedmont Environmental Council

# Data Center Companies in Virginia



# Data Center Inventory (MW)

Graph Source: [www.cbre.com/insights/reports/global-data-center-trends-2023](http://www.cbre.com/insights/reports/global-data-center-trends-2023)



Source: CBRE Research, Q1 2022 & Q1 2023. Figures and data for North American markets include only wholesale colocation facilities. In Europe, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific, total inventory includes both wholesale and retail colocation facilities.

# Data centers are getting larger...

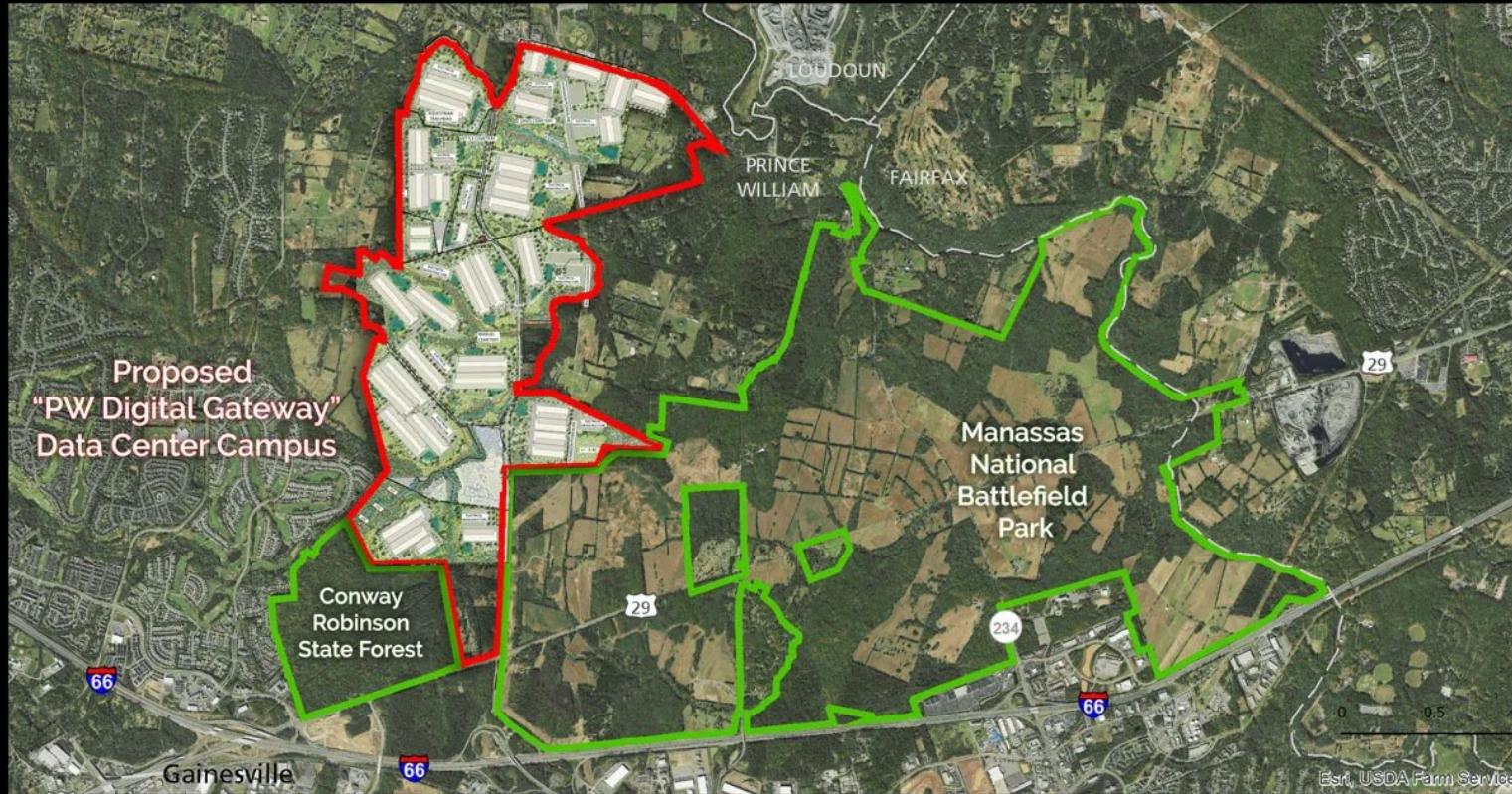
- Growth in the hyperscale market
- Over 200,000 sqft per building
- Multiple proposals for campuses over 5 million sqft
- Using much more power!



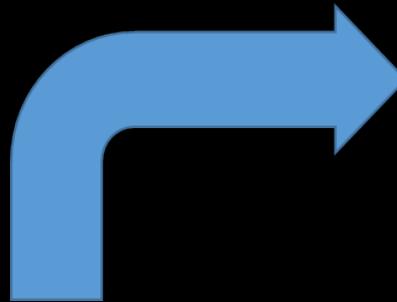
Photo Credit: Hugh Kenny, PEC

# Prince William Digital Gateway

**37 building, 15 substations, 3 gigawatts (GW), equivalent to about 750,000 homes**



# Perfect Landing Strip + Data/Energy Self Perpetuating Cycle...



Skilled Personnel  
Safe Location  
Available Land  
Materials/Resources  
Supportive Government  
**Power!!!**

# Why Do Localities Find Data Center Attractive?

- They generally don't usually create a lot of traffic
- They don't require school seats
- They create some jobs (although not as much as many other forms of economic development)
- **They offer a lot of tax revenue depending on rates set by localities**
  - **Personal Property Tax (IT Equipment)**
  - **Real Estate Tax**

## Loudoun Now August 15, 2023

Town Vice Mayor of Leesburg Neil Steinberg said on Leesburg's recent decision on data centers, *"in the end, it is all about the money, and it is a lot of money..."*



# They create a host of **community impacts**



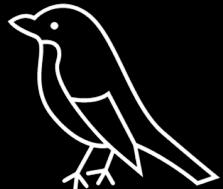
**Parks and Trails**



**Water**



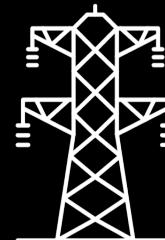
**Air Quality**



**Wildlife Habitat**

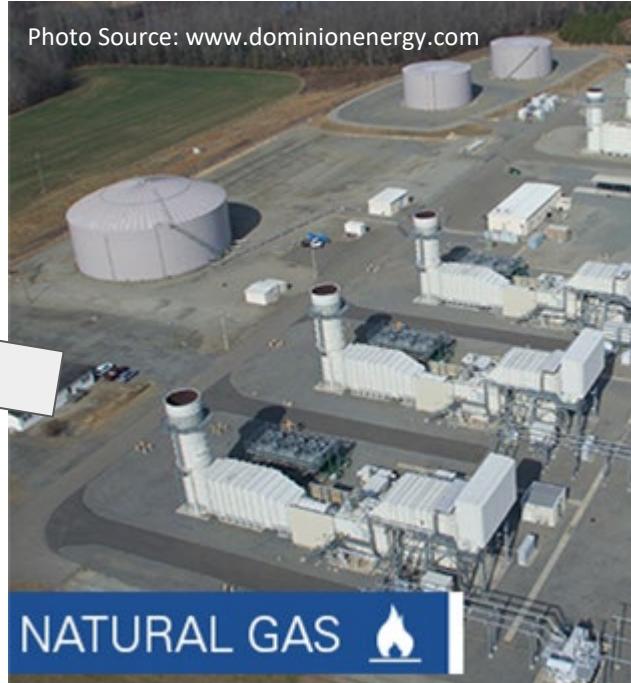


**Design**



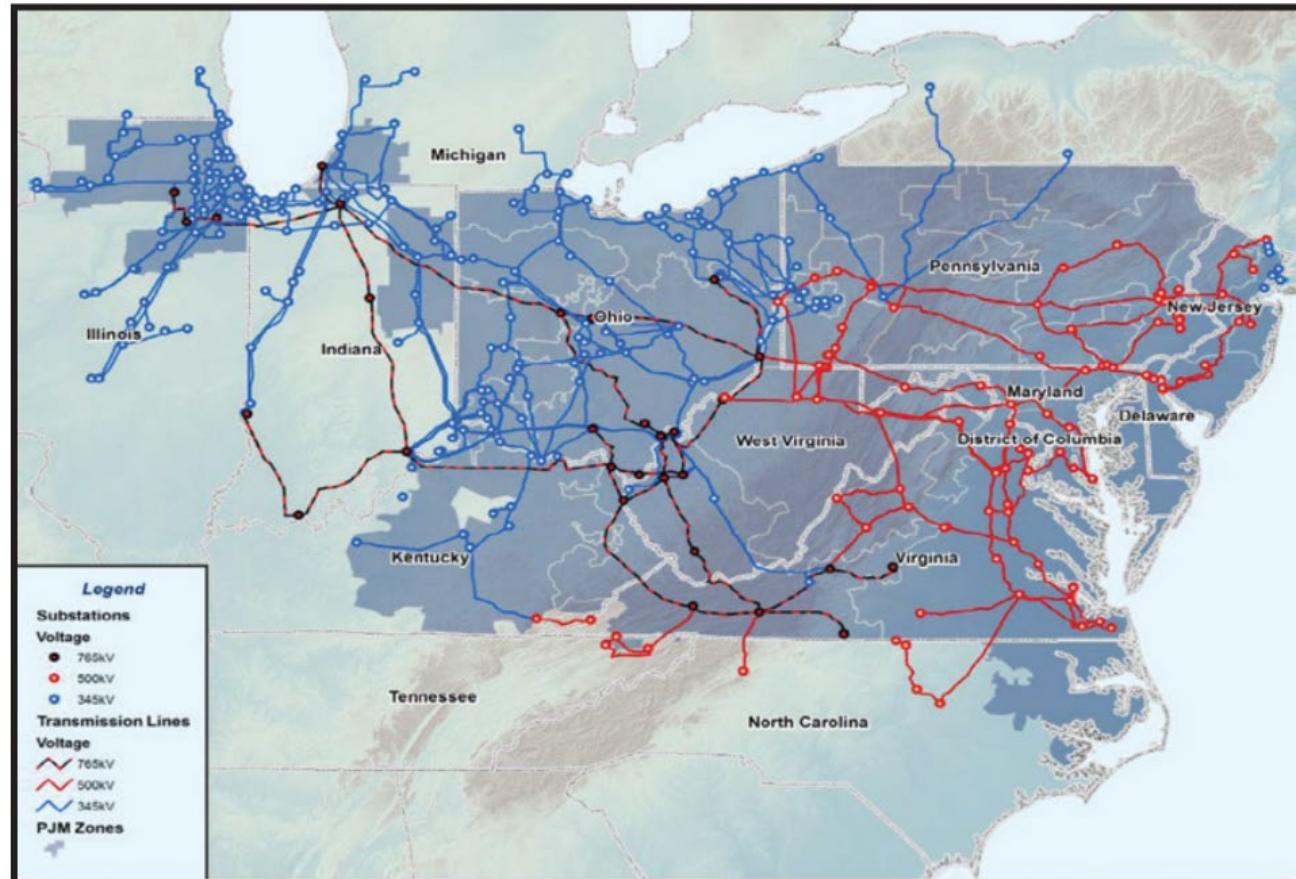
**Transmission**

# Data Centers Consume a Huge Amount of Electricity



# Role of RTO

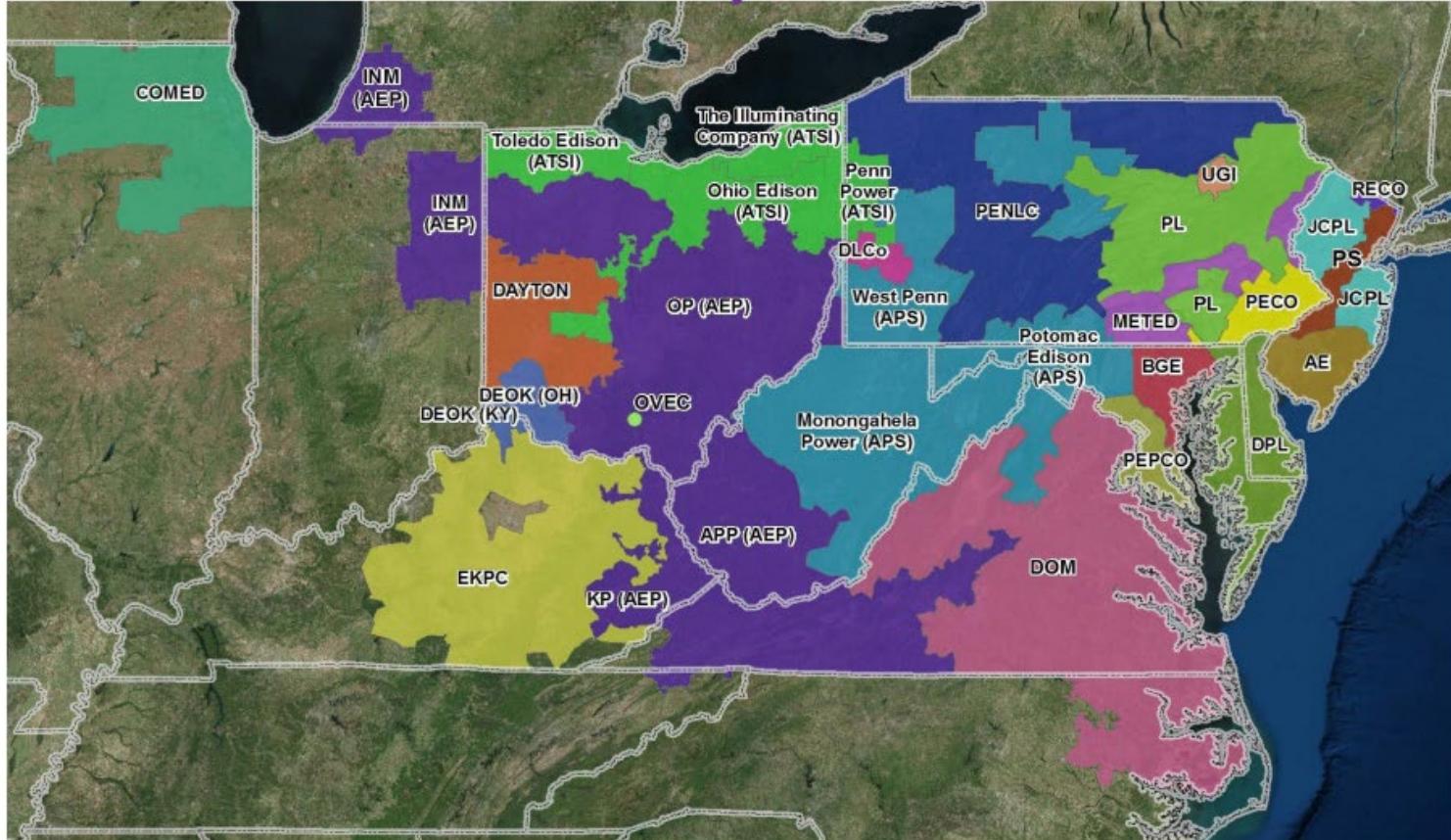
Acting as a neutral, independent party, PJM operates a competitive wholesale electricity market and manages the high-voltage electricity grid to ensure reliability for more than 65 million people.



## PJM Interconnection

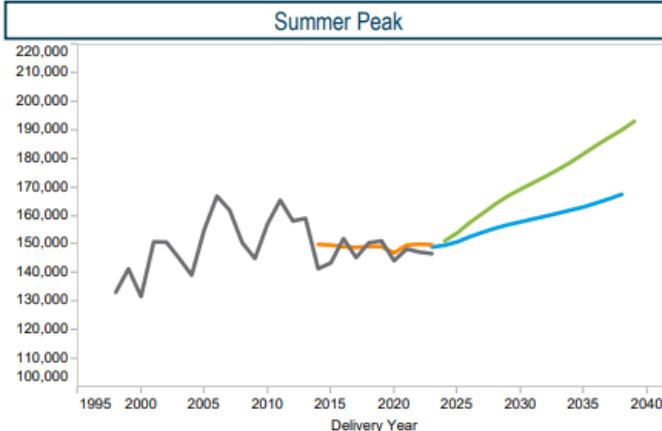
# PJM Load Forecast Report

January 2024



Prepared by PJM Resource Adequacy Planning Department

# PJM RTO



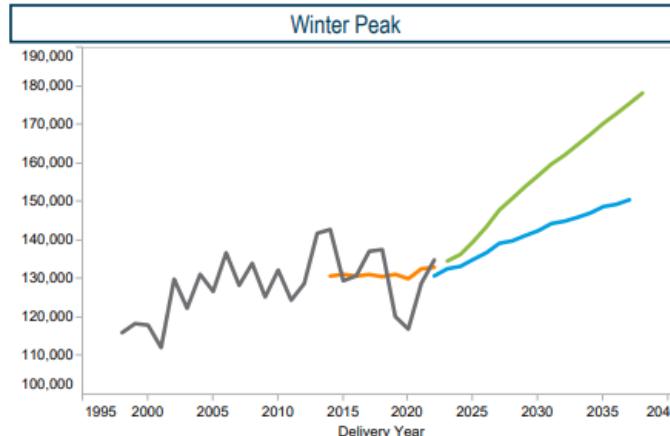
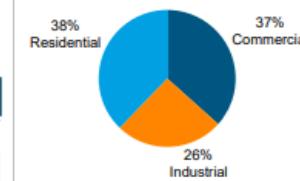
### Weather - Annual Average 1994-2022

Avg Summer Daily Temp	74.25
Avg Summer Max Temp	95.13
Avg Winter Daily Temp	34.06
Avg Winter Min Temp	3.93

### Zonal 10/15 Year Load Growth

	10 Year	15 Year
SUMMER	1.7%	1.6%
WINTER	2.0%	1.9%

### RCI Makeup



### LDAs

PJM Mid-Atlantic  
Eastern MAAC  
Southern MAAC

Central MAAC  
Western MAAC  
PJM West

### Zones

AE	DAYTON	JCPL	PEPCO
AEP	DEOK	METED	PL
APS	DLCO	OVEC	PS
ATSI	DOM	PECO	RECO
BGE	DPL	PENLC	UGI
COMED	EKPC		

Peak

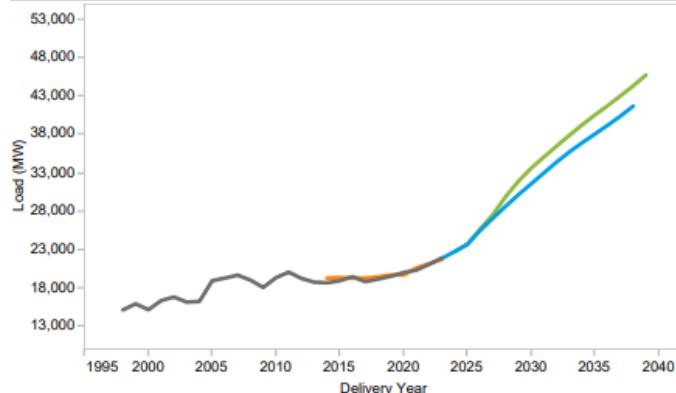
WN peak

Forecast 2023

Forecast 2024

# Dominion (DOM)

## Summer Peak



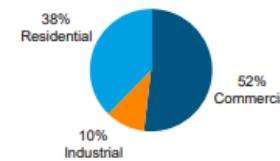
## Weather - Annual Average 1994-2022

Avg Summer Daily Temp	76.9
Avg Summer Max Temp	96.9
Avg Winter Daily Temp	40.3
Avg Winter Min Temp	12.3

## Zonal 10/15 Year Load Growth

	SUMMER	5.6%	4.8%
	WINTER	5.1%	4.3%

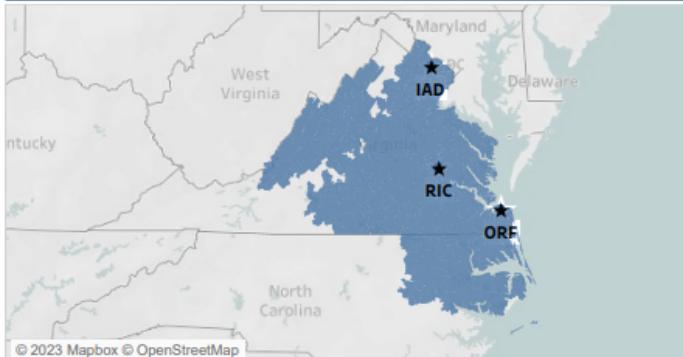
## RCI Makeup



## LDAs

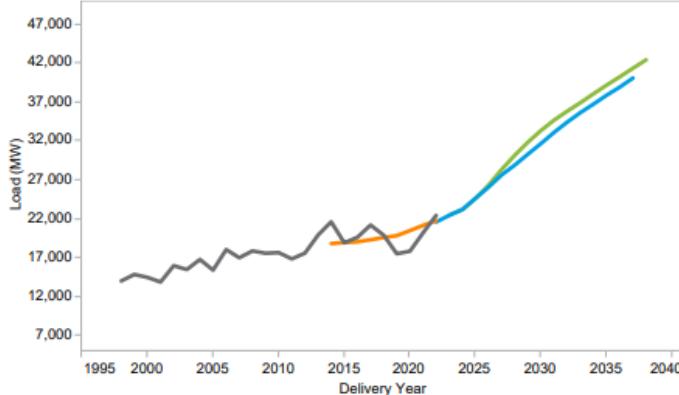
## PJM RTO

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Weather Stations



Virginia Commonwealth Economics

## Winter Peak



Peak

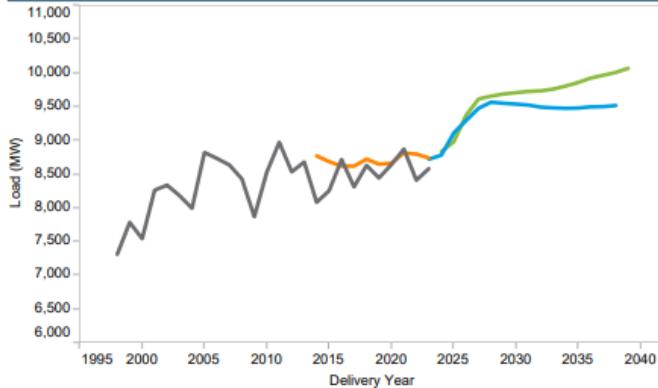
WN peak

Forecast 2023

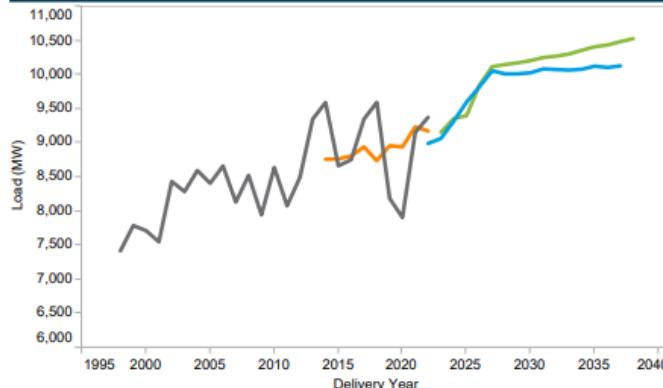
Forecast 2024

# Allegheny Power Systems (APS)

## Summer Peak



## Winter Peak



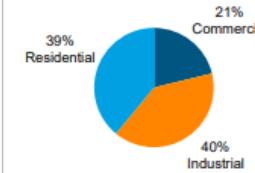
## Weather - Annual Average 1994-2022

Avg Summer Daily Temp	72.8
Avg Summer Max Temp	92.5
Avg Winter Daily Temp	32.9
Avg Winter Min Temp	2.2

## Zonal 10/15 Year Load Growth

	SUMMER	WINTER
1.1%	1.1%	0.9%
1.2%	1.2%	0.9%

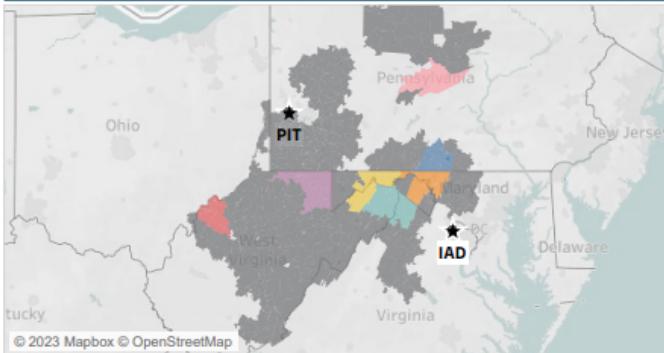
## RCI Makeup



## LDAs

## PJM RTO PJM WESTERN

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Weather Stations



Peak

WN peak

Forecast 2023

Forecast 2024

APS - Non-metro

Chambersburg-Waynesboro, PA

Cumberland, MD-WV

Hagerstown-Martinsburg, MD-WV

Morgantown, WV

Parkersburg-Vienna, WV

State College, PA

Winchester, VA-WV

**DIVE BRIEF**

# PJM triples annual load growth forecast to 2.4% driven by data centers, electrification

The PJM Interconnection's fastest-growing zones include ones served by Dominion Energy and FirstEnergy's Metropolitan Edison and Jersey Central Power & Light utilities.

Executive Summary Table: 2023 Plan Results

	Plan A	Plan B	Plan C	Plan D	Plan E
<b>NPV Total (\$B)</b>	\$109.70	\$127.70	\$127.20	\$140.90	\$138.00
<b>Approximate CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Company in 2048 (Metric Tons)</b>	43.8 M	35.9 M	36 M	0 M	0 M
<b>Solar (MW)</b>	10,800 15 yr. 19,800 25 yr.	10,875 15 yr. 19,875 25 yr.	10,800 15 yr. 19,800 25 yr.	10,875 15 yr. 23,955 25 yr.	11,094 15 yr. 24,294 25 yr.
<b>Wind (MW)</b>	3,040 15 yr. 3,220 25 yr.				
<b>Storage (MW)</b>	1,050 15 yr. 3,960 25 yr.	2,370 15 yr. 5,190 25 yr.	2,220 15 yr. 5,220 25 yr.	2,370 15 yr. 9,780 25 yr.	2,910 15 yr. 10,350 25 yr.
<b>Nuclear (MW)</b>	— 15 yr. — 25 yr.	804 15 yr. 1,608 25 yr.	804 15 yr. 1,608 25 yr.	1,608 15 yr. 4,824 25 yr.	1,072 15 yr. 4,288 25 yr.
<b>Natural Gas-Fired (MW)</b>	5,905 15 yr. 9,300 25 yr.	2,910 15 yr. 2,910 25 yr.	2,910 15 yr. 2,910 25 yr.	970 15 yr. 970 25 yr.	970 15 yr. 970 25 yr.
<b>Retirements (MW)</b>	— 15 yr. — 25 yr.	— 15 yr. — 25 yr.	— 15 yr. — 25 yr.	— 15 yr. 11,399 25 yr.	— 15 yr. 11,399 25 yr.

# This cost will be passed on to ratepayers







# Planning for data centers requires planning for energy infrastructure...

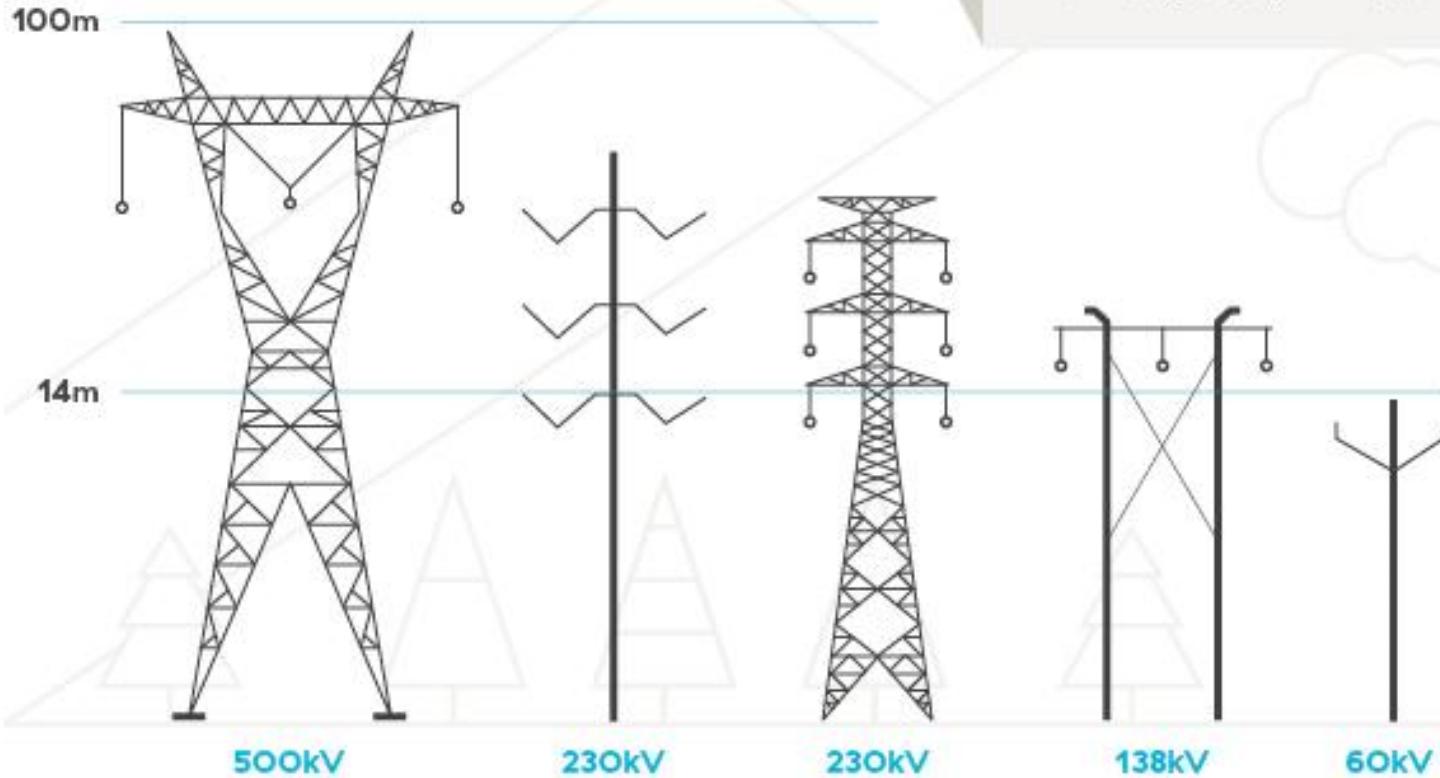
- Substations - Convert electricity into different voltages (max 300MW)
- Serving Hyperscale Data Center Load Requests - 230kV and below
- Approval of Transmission Lines (138kV +) - State Corporation Commission regulates electric facilities
- Approval of substations - Localities permit siting, zoning, and site plan
- Rough estimates of lines capacity (varies based on conductor and conditions):
  - 230 kV line around 1 to 1.6 GW
  - 500 kV line around 4.3 to 5.2 GW
- Single source radial transmission line load is generally limited to 100MW
- Dominion requires reinforcements when load exceeds 300MW (N-1-1 contingency; simultaneous loss of 2 major units); applies to both line loss and substation loss

## Transmission lines

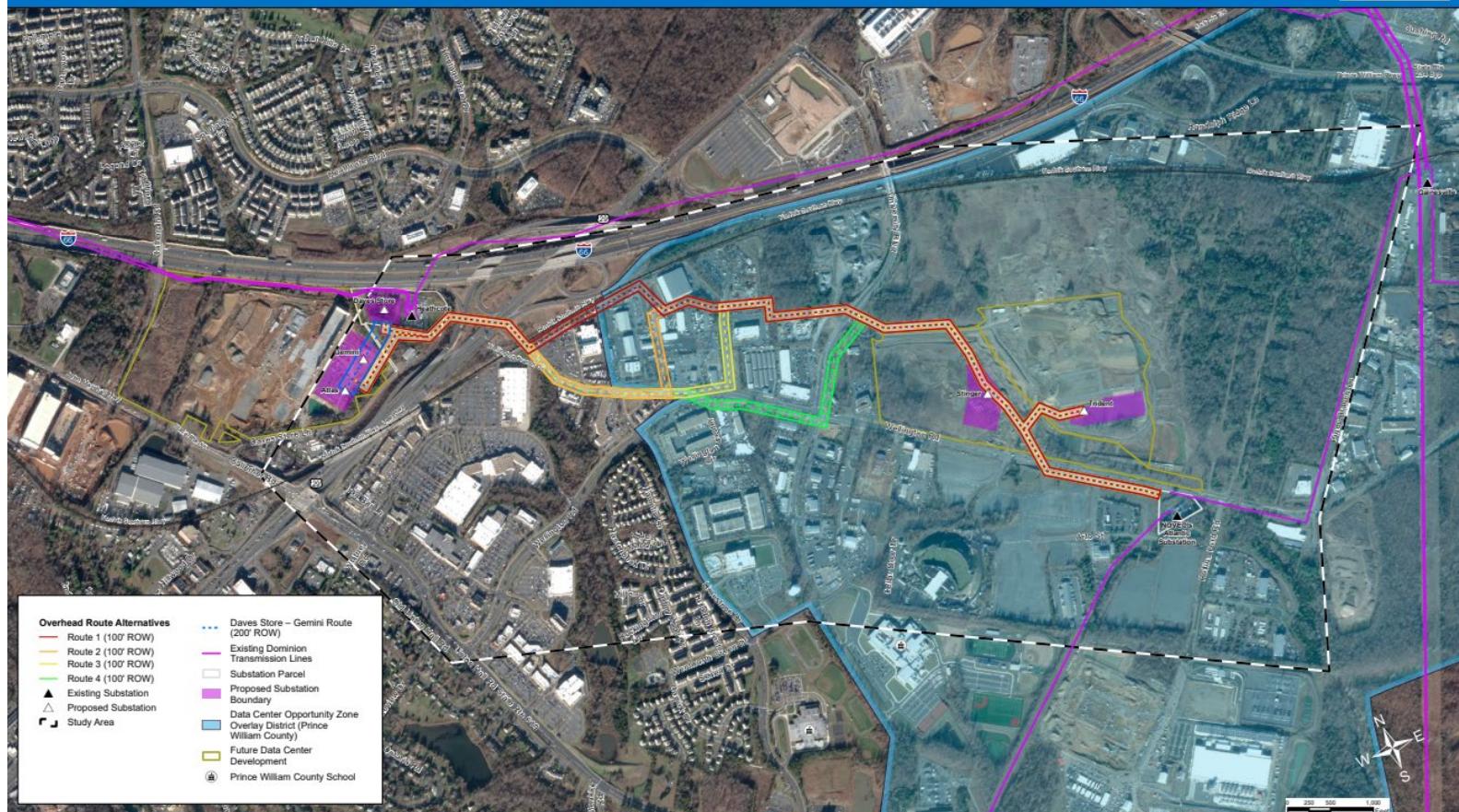
Transmission lines are the big, high voltage power lines that bring electricity from where it's made at our generating stations to substations near communities across B.C.

### What's a kV?

kV stands for kilovolt, which is a unit of potential energy. One kV is equal to 1,000 volts.



# General Project Area Map

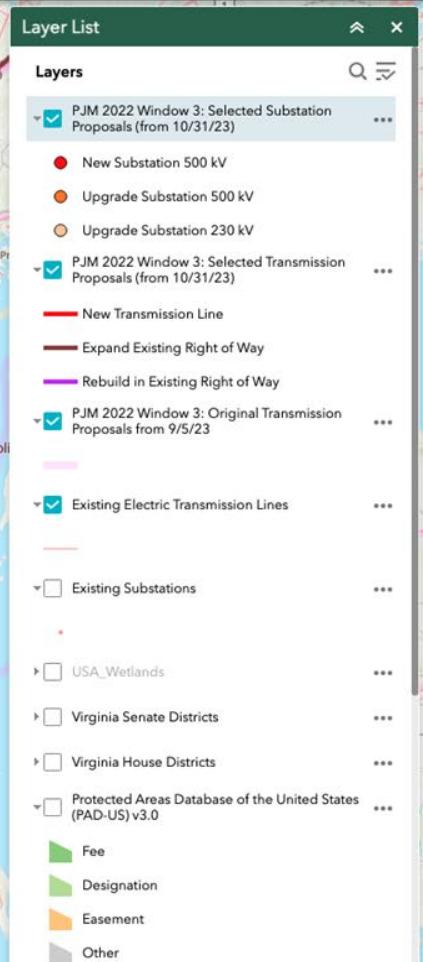
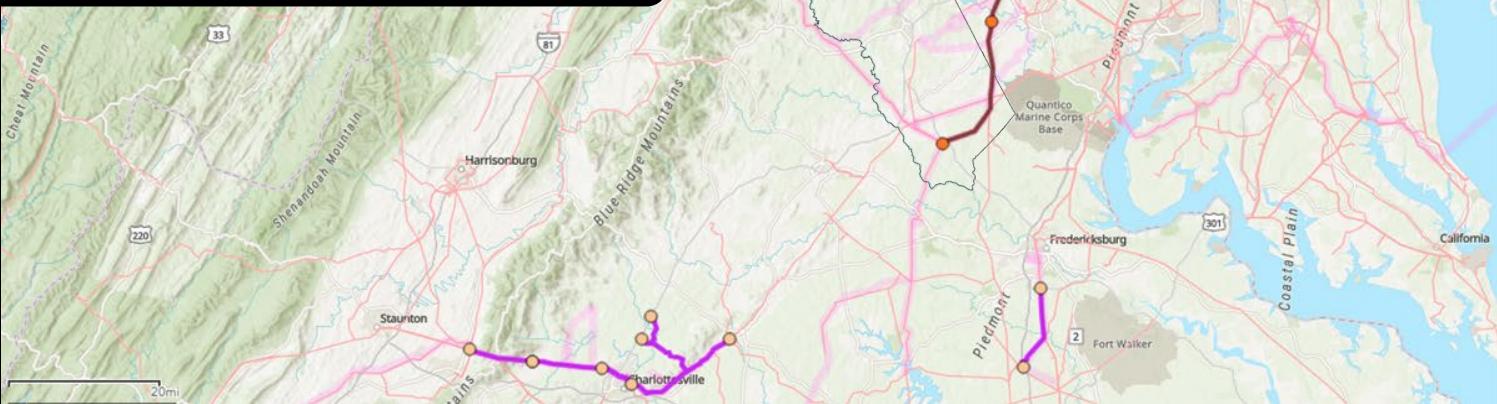
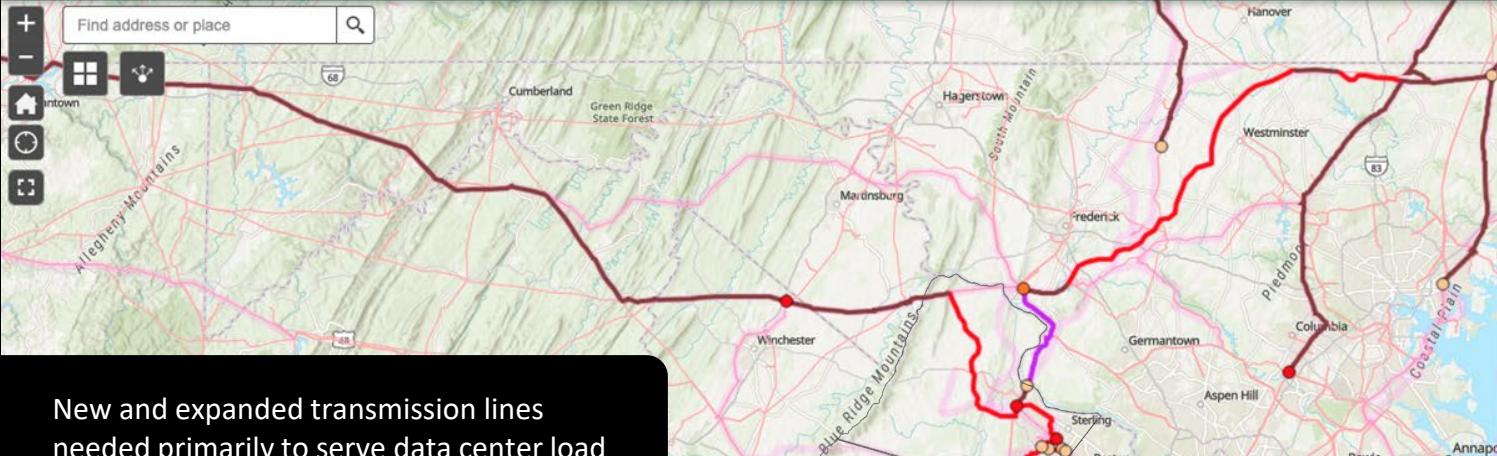


**Daves Store Substation and 230 kV Transmission Line Project**

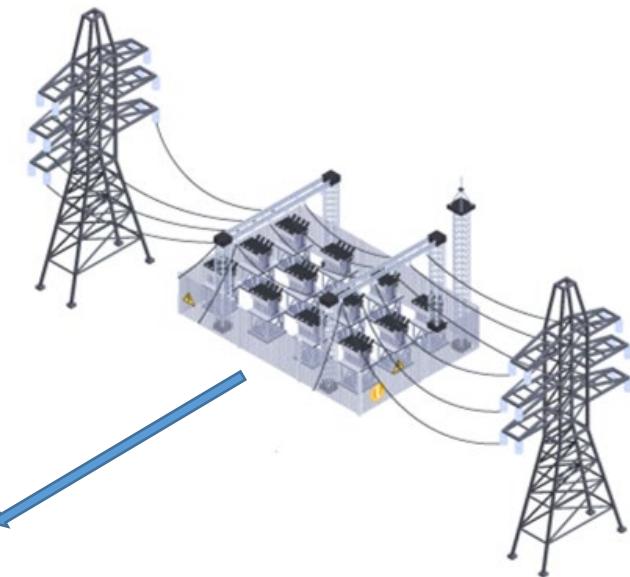
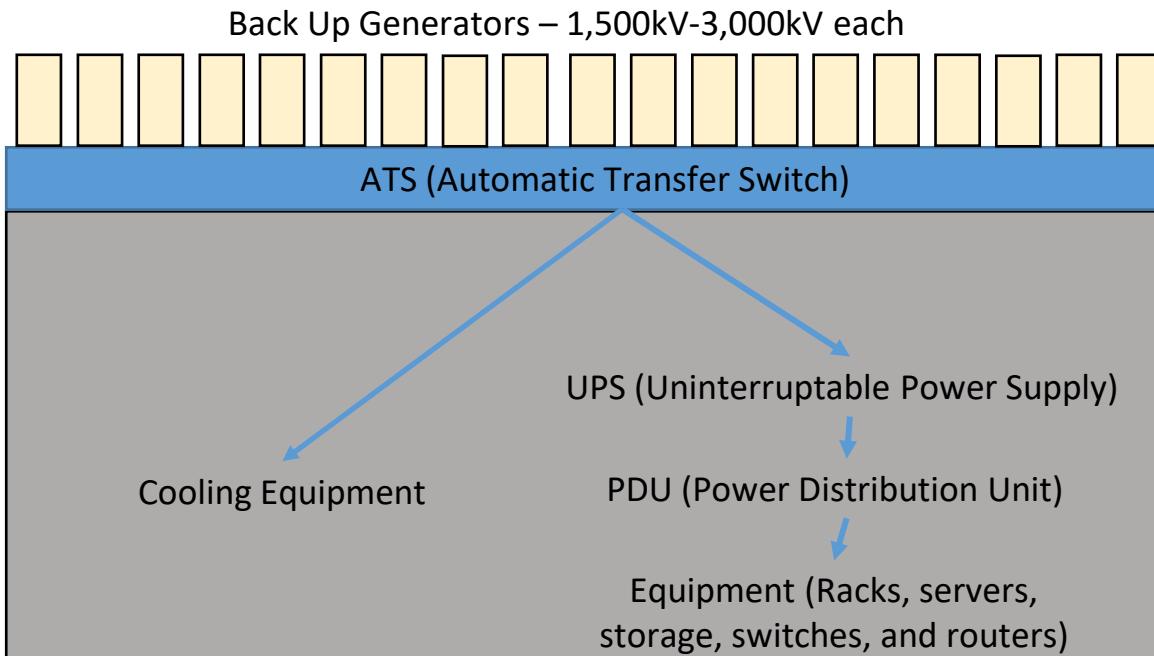
# New high-voltage transmission line for Gainesville data centers is already facing pushback from activists

By Jill Palermo Times Staff Writer Jan 8, 2024 Updated 7 hrs ago  4





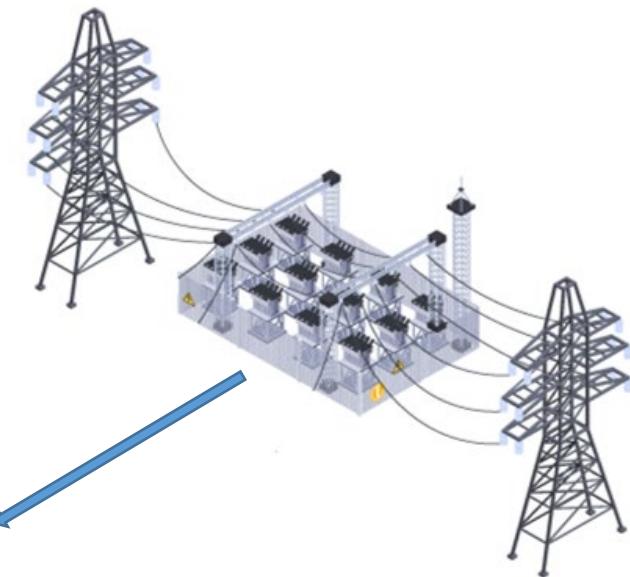
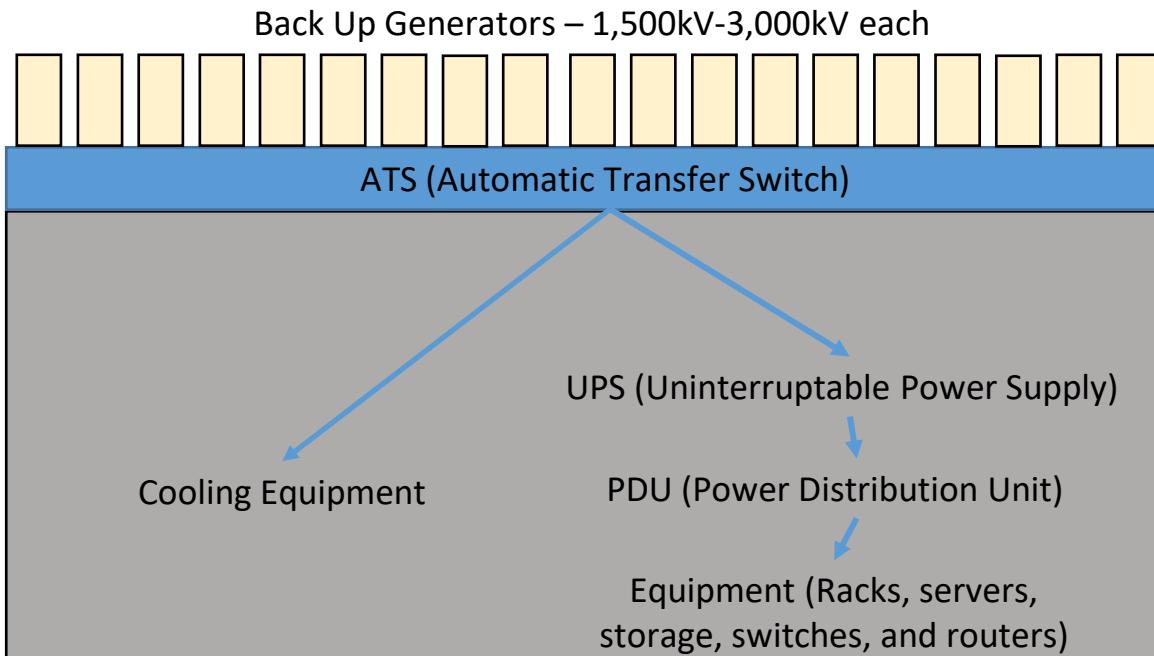
# Power Path for Typical Data Center



Note about energy efficiency:  
Industry often uses: PUE

$$\text{PUE} = \frac{\text{Total Facility Power}}{\text{IT Equipment Power}}$$

# Power Path for Typical Data Center



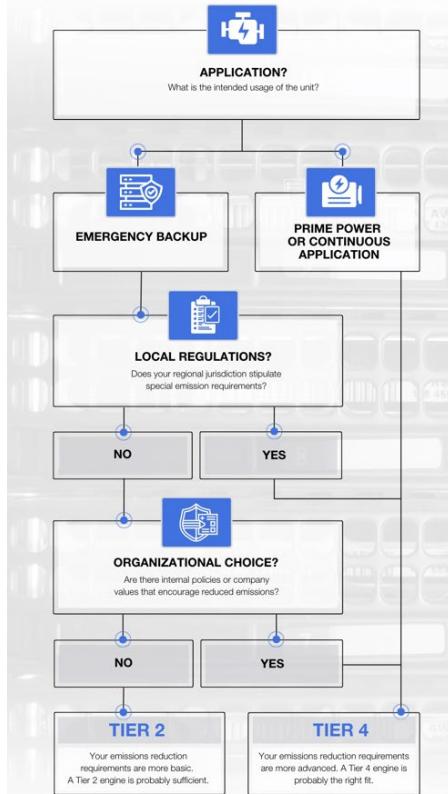
Note about energy efficiency:  
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# Their backup power is large diesel generators

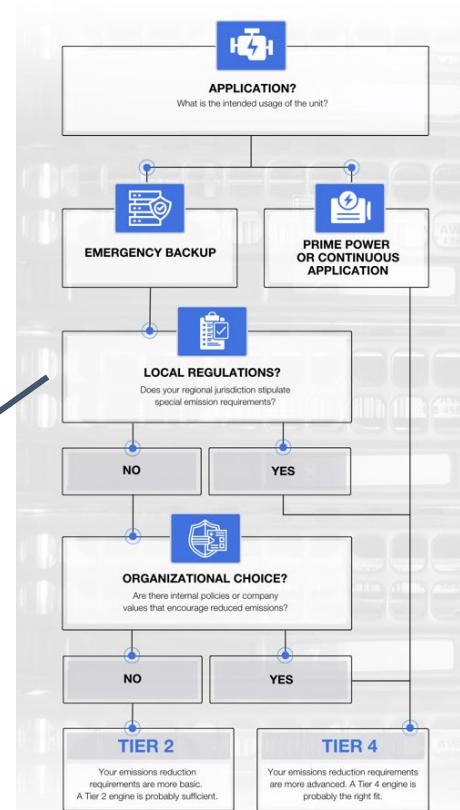


# How companies decide what generator type to use:



Source: <https://insights-datacenters.kohlerpower.com/emission-standards-for-data-centers-a-decision-making-guide>

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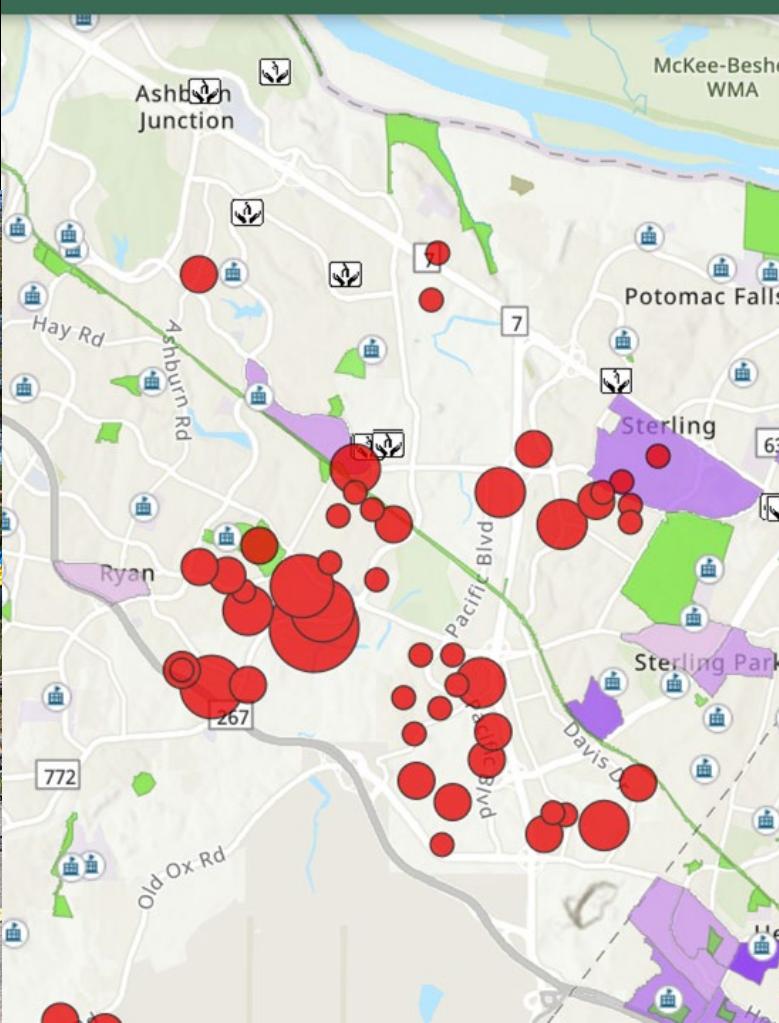


Source: <https://insights-datacenters.kohlerpower.com/emission-standards-for-data-centers-a-decision-making-guide>

# Over 4,000 diesel generators permitted in Loudoun



## Data Center Diesel Generators



### Legend

Data Centers Emissions

Number of Generators

> 220 - 260

> 170 - 220

> 130 - 170

> 90 - 130

> 40 - 90

0 - 40

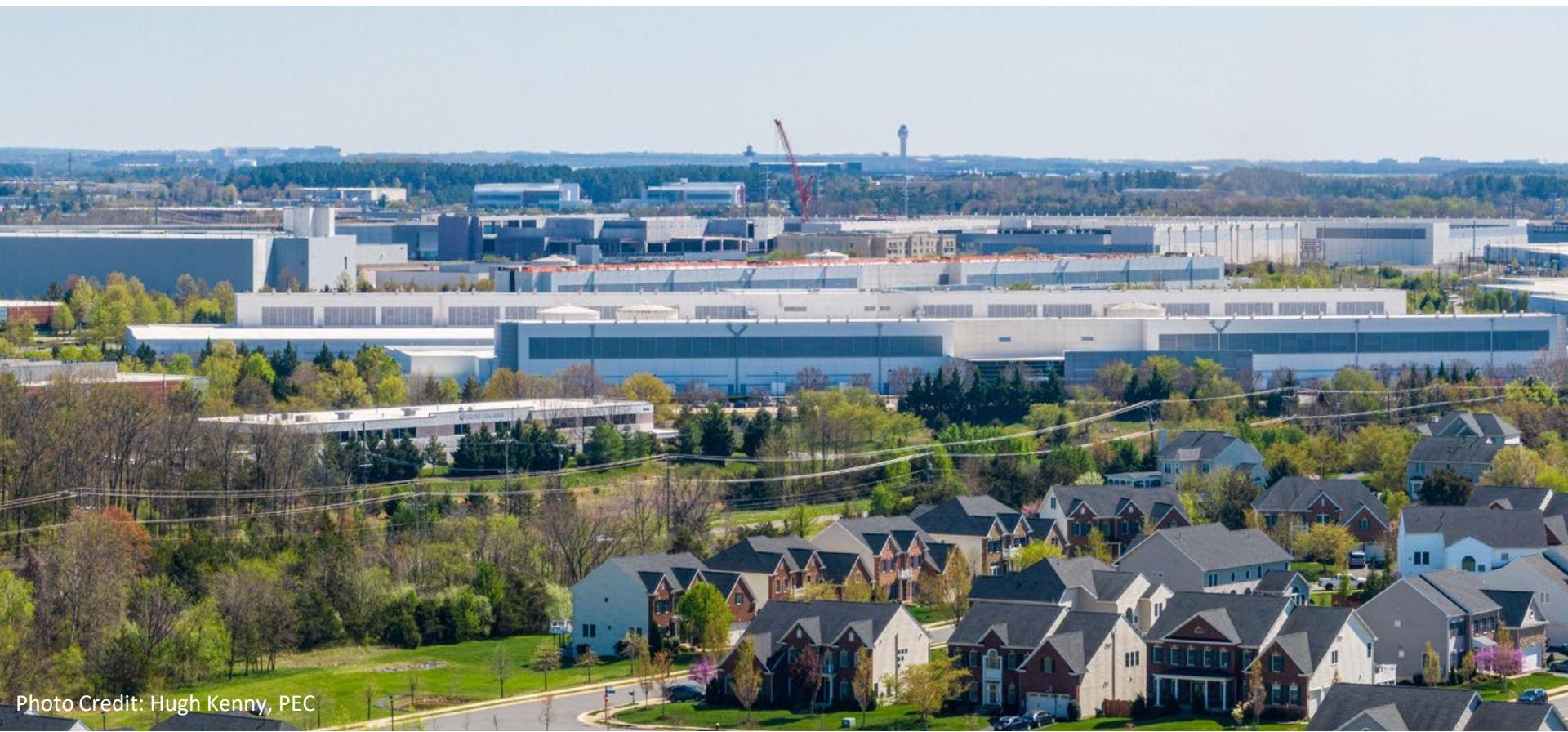
Nursing Homes



Public School Locations



# Effect on Adjacent Uses



# Effect on Adjacent Uses

## Things to think about:

- Size, fencing, and security can hinder connectivity
- Speculation can raise surrounding land prices pushing out residential and mixed use development
- Electric infrastructure (and fiber) attracts more data centers and electric generation interest
- Complementary uses tend to be energy generation, industrial and office/flex
- Incompatible uses tend to be residential, mixed use, commercial, tourism, and agriculture

# Local Land Use Impacts of Data Centers Vary...

- Traffic
- Effect on Adjacent Uses
- Lighting
- Building Design
- Energy Usage
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Water Usage and Wastewater
- Water Vapor Plumes
- Fire Protection and Fuel Storage

To Learn More Visit:  
[www.pecva.org/work/energy-work/data-centers/pec-presentation-on-planning-for-the-digital-age/](http://www.pecva.org/work/energy-work/data-centers/pec-presentation-on-planning-for-the-digital-age/)



Photo Credit: Hugh Kenny, PEC

# Suggested regulations:

- Define data centers/cryptocurrency (possibly separately) and any type of onsite power generation allowed
- Adopt use-specific standards, some ideas:
  - Require basic information on data center type, cooling system, projected energy and water usage, building design, site layout with substation, reserved transmission line right-of-way, generators, fuel storage and containment area, noise study, viewshed analysis, elevations, etc
  - Consider limiting the number or location of diesel generators in proximity to sensitive uses such as schools, parks, trails, elderly living facilities, hospitals, etc. or requiring less polluting forms of backup power such as a combination of battery and natural gas
  - Adopt energy efficiency standards such as a PUE of 1.2 or lower or a documented renewable energy agreement

# Suggested Policies

- Don't sign NDA's and review FOIA regulations and what is considered proprietary information (a general concept plan with building locations, anticipated power usage, generator yard, fuel storage, substation, etc and basic description of type of data center and cooling is not proprietary info)
- Meet with your utility to discuss electrical infrastructure required during review not after approval! This requires full information such as projected MW of data center and planned location of substation.
- Thoughtfully set the personal property tax and depreciation schedule. Closed door negotiations often burn locality... careful with performance agreements
- Consider allocating revenue from data centers into CIP budget that may be less impacted by revenue swings

# More information

- UpTime Institute - IT advisory organization tracking industry trends and providing guidance
- CBRE – commercial real estate services and investments research and provide insights
- Data Center Dynamics (DCD) - Articles, white papers, training, webinars, magazine
- Data Center Frontier – Articles, white papers, projections/trends, webinars, videos
- Podcasts – The Data Center Frontier Show, DCD Zero Downtime, Not Your Father's Data Center Podcast (less technical and more local focus)
- APA Illinois Chapter On-Demand Education Course on Crypto Mining & Data Centers (David Morley, AICP, Stewart Weiss, and Tom Thunder) CM 1.25
- PJM Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee (TEAC) – determining transmission line routes to deliver power to northern Virginia and other small data center hubs in the state
- Take a tour of Loudoun's Data Center Alley and schedule tour of inside of colocation data center with Iron Mountain or QTS
- **Visit PEC's website**

**[www.pecva.org/our-work/energy-matters/data-centers-energy-demand/](http://www.pecva.org/our-work/energy-matters/data-centers-energy-demand/)**

# Questions?