

I am a resident of Dickerson Maryland and co owner of a business which employs 100 county residents. .

Great job by County Council members Vice President Marilyn Balcolme, President Natali Fani-Gonzalez, and Councilmember Laurie Anne Sayles for sponsoring legislation on data centers. This seems like a much more reasonable approach than a moratorium, which is clearly intended to ban data centers.

There will be hearings, workshops, debates, amendments, etc but there are important things covered in the bill.

- 1) Defines a data center and puts it in a separate zoning category.
- 2) Limits data centers to industrial zoned properties.
- 3) Places further limits that are not applicable to other industrial uses.

One thing that it does not address is water use and for good reason. It is the Maryland Department of the Environment, and not the county, that permits or denies water use from the Potomac River. Here are a few facts:

- 2 million gallons per day maximum data center permit application
- 50 million gallons per day maximum previous PEPCO power station permit
- 342 million gallons per day flow September 11, 1966. LOWEST EVER (since record keeping began in 1895!!!)
- 7.2 BILLION gallons per day flow February 19 2026 which is about average

Last two figures from the USGS website.<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/USGS-01638500/#dataTypeId=continuous-00060-0&period=P7D&showFieldMeasurements=true>

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