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Kurt Woolford Executive Director
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Libertyville, IL 60048

RE: Grayslake Data Center

You were copied in on a group email but since you are the one vetting so to speak for the Army Corp of Engineers I thought I should send you a cleaned up version the old fashioned way.

Protecting our water supply is a shared responsibility, and I hope this letter contributes in some small way to raising awareness and encouraging appropriate precautions with this controversial undertaking.

Does the EPA, Army Corp of Engineers have enough data on the bio being discharged at the Grayslake data center, know what tests and what equipment is necessary plus have it in place to protect the developments wastewater from destroying the groundwater, private wells, public water supply, streams, rivers, lakes of the town, county, state?

This is covid on an environmental scale. The possible potential problems and their solutions need to be in place before and not as the problems arise all need to be in place before permits are issued.

All wastewater discharged where?

What type of testing will be done on the blowdown and how often?

Is all water and wastewater coming from and going thru municipal equipment only ?

Even on closed loop systems, they are flushed and refilled on a scheduled basis.

There are real proven concerns with the data centers. As time goes on, more and more issues are coming to light. Problem is, the centers are going up so quickly, by the time the true impact is known, the damage is already done. The large tract of vacant land where the Grayslake, IL data center is being developed is in what is still a largely agricultural area where infrastructure is limited. Well and septic systems are the only option and still in use for many businesses and households in the area. The adjacent city and village housing developments have the expectation for a safe water supply.

The cooling choices of this data center is putting village, town, and rural users at risk.

The data center is using cooling methods with PFAS in the anti scaling and anti corrosion additives. Currently, there is no wastewater testing program in place for PFAS as there are no wastewater filters for these agents . Even in a closed-loop system, water is changed periodically, and blowdown occurs, allowing for potential PFAS entry into the environment.

Permits should not be issued for facilities using PFAS in areas where contamination of water or wastewater systems could occur.

As states and counties scramble for water testing for PFAS, what is being done with wastewater testing for PFAS ? The goal needs to be to keep it out of the water system. No permits should be given to any business where biocide discharge has the potential to enter the water or wastewater. In a possible scenario lets project by the time the Grayslake data center is operational there are requirements in place for regular testing of wastewater. If a test is conducted, results are received within days, and it comes back positive for PFAS, thousands or even millions of gallons of contaminated wastewater could already have entered the system, impacting groundwater wells, city water, and streams. The consequences would be profound. Groundwater wells, city water, streams all impacted.

Think of the consequences. A company that had billions to invest in a venture is not going to bat an eye over thousands or even millions of dollars in fines: it's the cost of doing business, yet the repercussions are now impacting thousands, and depending on the wastewater system it is being discharged into, potentially millions, and not just this generation but all generations to come as we are talking about forever chemicals.

It is up to all of us to protect our water supply. It can be done. There are alternative cooling systems, none of which are perfect, and all of which carry risks, but none jeopardize entire populations like this scenario does. The cooling methods employed in these facilities must prioritize safety to mitigate potential disasters. All methods using biocides should be rejected to avoid a serious risk to our water supply and the communities that depend on it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul G. Smart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".