

James, Karen

From: Steve Black <steveblack2313@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 3:06 PM
To: Council Members; Planning Commission; County Executive
Subject: Sierra Club webinar on data center impacts

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I know that all of the Council Members and Planning Commissioners will want to participate in this Sierra Club webinar on data center impacts.

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?actionId=AR0460925&data=5b92db419cd606ff6944da0a9aca63a35d174f9028321c0bbc427bbf76f48d69&formcampaignid=701Po00000xabCBIAY>

The issues surrounding data center development and operation are not new and they are not unique to Frederick County.

As you grapple with the serious issues of future data centers in Frederick County we all hope you will be fully educated on the experiences elsewhere.

Regards,

Steve Black
Adamstown MD

James, Karen

From: patg123000@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 7:09 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Re: Geisinger Farm

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

On Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 10:52:33 AM EDT, patg123000@aol.com <patg123000@aol.com> wrote:

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: patg123000@aol.com <patg123000@aol.com>
To: constituentservices@frederickcountymd.gov <constituentservices@frederickcountymd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 10:49:20 AM EDT
Subject: Fw: Geisinger Farm

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: patg123000@aol.com <patg123000@aol.com>
To: byoung@frederickcountymd.gov <byoung@frederickcountymd.gov>; kduckett@frederickcountymd.gov <kduckett@frederickcountymd.gov>; rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov <rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov>; jdonald@frederickcountymd.gov <jdonald@frederickcountymd.gov>; smckay@frederickcountymd.gov <smckay@frederickcountymd.gov>; mckeegan-ayer@frederickcountymd.gov <mckeegan-ayer@frederickcountymd.gov>; mcarter@frederickcountymd.gov <mcarter@frederickcountymd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 10:44:18 AM EDT
Subject: Geisinger Farm

Good morning,

My name is Jeff Geisinger my family owns the property at 3710 Cap Stine Rd. In a recent Frederick News Post article about the data center it was mentioned that our property was in a MALPF easement. Our property is not now or has it ever been in a MALPF easement. We think they must be referring to the neighboring property owned by the Stup family. We are concerned that mistakes like this could cause confusion for those involved in the CDI overlay decisions. Please inform those who should know about this mistake.

Thank you,
A Jeffrey Geisinger

From: [Gaines, Kimberly](#)
To: [James, Karen](#)
Subject: FW: Inaccurate Representation of Adamstown Communities and Health/Safety Concerns Regarding Planned Data Centers
Date: Friday, August 8, 2025 10:07:14 AM

From: K and E Stephens <kandestephens@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:10 PM
To: mde.secretary@maryland.gov; serena.mcilwain@maryland.gov; alison.ray@maryland.gov; chris.hoagland@maryland.gov
Cc: mkeegan-ayer@frederickcountymd.gov; Knapp, Renee <RKnapp@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; McKay, Steve <SMcKay@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; Murray, Patrick <PMurray@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; karen.young@senate.maryland.gov; kenneth.kerr@house.state.md.us; kris.fair@house.state.md.us; karen.simpson@house.state.md.us; County Executive <CountyExecutive@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; Gaines, Kimberly <KGaines@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; Superczynski, Denis <DSuperczynski@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; Dimitriou, John <JDimitriou@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; Flom, Karin <KFlom@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; Stine, Andrew <ASTine@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; Moreno, Vanessa <GMorenoHuaman@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; McFarlin, Patricia <PMcFarlin@FrederickCountyMD.gov>; Help@ceds.org
Subject: Inaccurate Representation of Adamstown Communities and Health/Safety Concerns Regarding Planned Data Centers

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Secretary McIlwain, Frederick County Executive Fitzwater, Members of the Frederick County Council, and Members of the Maryland General Assembly, and Frederick County Council and Planning Committee,

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the accuracy and completeness of the Critical Data Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Map that was sent to the state. The current map, as shown to the Frederick County Council and Planning, fails to include a very large number of people who are immediately adjacent to the planned data center sites.

Specifically, the map omits the entirety of several communities directly south of the planned data centers, including **Green Hill Manor**, **Adamstown Commons**, and **Carrollton Manor**, among many others. These neighborhoods are located just across a small street from the planned data centers. As you can see from the attached document, which combines the official CDI overlay with a Google Map, the school and residential areas are clearly and immediately adjacent to the planned data center zone.

A major point of concern is the proximity of **Carroll Manor Elementary School**, located at 5624 Adamstown Rd. Based on the attached map, the school appears to be only about 500 feet from the planned data centers. We have repeatedly asked the Frederick Planning department for the exact distance from the elementary school to the data centers but have been ignored. The only response we have received is a

general statement that residents will be 500 feet away, without providing any specific information regarding the school. This lack of transparency is unacceptable, especially given the potential impact on a place where children spend a significant portion of their day. Furthermore, **Carroll Manor Elementary School** is just a few houses away from a large daycare center, "**Creative Memories Children's Learning Center**," at 5529 Adamstown Rd, which is also in close proximity to the planned data centers.

Public Health and Safety Concerns

We are deeply concerned about the public health and safety implications of placing data centers with diesel generators so close to a school and these residential and daycare areas. Data centers rely on diesel generators for backup power, which are tested at minimum monthly and sometimes as often as weekly. The emissions from these generators are a significant source of air pollution, including nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and fine particulate matter. These pollutants have been linked to serious health problems, such as respiratory issues, heart attacks, and cancer. Children are particularly vulnerable to these health risks due to their developing respiratory systems.

Recent actions by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) further highlight the serious nature of these concerns. DEQ has created a new public database of air permits for data center diesel generators, a move lauded by environmental groups to increase transparency. The DEQ's website lists over 177 permits statewide, with over 85 in Loudoun County alone, and some facilities, like the Hayden Data Center, listing over 150 diesel generators. The American Medical Association has linked the tiny particulate matter from these emissions to an increased risk of heart issues. This data clearly demonstrates the substantial scale of potential pollution and the need for stricter regulation. While Frederick County has agreed to a **500-foot setback** from a resident's home, this distance has not been confirmed for schools and daycare centers, leaving our children unprotected.

Environmental and Resource Strain

In addition to air pollution, the water demands of data centers present a new and critical concern. A recent article highlights that the growth of data centers, particularly those supporting artificial intelligence, is putting a severe strain on water resources in the Chesapeake region. To keep computer servers cool, most data centers use **evaporative cooling systems**, which consume vast quantities of water. For example, Google's data centers alone withdrew nearly 8 billion gallons of water in 2023, with a significant portion of that coming from local watersheds.

A study by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin projects that if the industry's growth continues at an unconstrained pace, its water consumption could reach **33% of the basin's total water use by 2050**, competing with the region's drinking water supply. This is a critical issue that demands careful planning. As the article notes, the costs of this unchecked growth—including the overwhelming demands on energy and water—are beginning to outweigh the benefits, a sentiment

echoed by the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Need for Responsible Planning

The situation in Adamstown mirrors the problems being faced in Loudoun County, Virginia, which has been dubbed "the data center capital of the world." As reported in a recent Bloomberg article, residents in Loudoun are being surrounded by data centers, with new facilities being built just steps from homes, schools, and playgrounds. This unfettered growth has created so much tension that some homeowners in the Hiddenwood community have pleaded with the county to rezone their land for industrial use just so they can collectively sell their homes and move away. As one resident, Bala Thumma, stated, "Our life is meant to be lived peacefully and not fighting every rezoning application that goes on in this community... This is the fifth application that we've been opposing and [which has fallen] on deaf ears." The emotional public hearings and the divisions created between neighboring communities serve as a powerful cautionary tale of poor county planning.

Communities across the country are taking action to protect themselves. A recent example of this is the **unanimous decision by the Tucson City Council to reject Amazon's "Project Blue" data center**. This victory was the result of a community-led coalition that opposed the project on the grounds of protecting their water, air, and climate. Their success demonstrates that local governments can and should stand with their residents against the harmful impacts of data centers. It is clear that the solution to this problem lies in better planning and stricter regulations. Organizations like the Community & Environmental Defense Services (CEDS) advocate for "Equitable Solutions" that prevent negative impacts while allowing for beneficial projects. They point out that a key issue is often **inadequate local planning and zoning** that fails to protect residential communities. CEDS recommends protective measures, such as zoning ordinances that classify data centers as heavy industrial facilities to ensure a more rigorous review process, and specific noise limits to prevent the "incessant humming" that has taken a toll on quality of life in other communities.

It is important to note that communities in Virginia and major energy companies like **BP** are actively exploring and adopting cleaner energy solutions, including nuclear, wind, solar, and advanced cooling systems that improve data center efficiency and reduce their environmental impact. This demonstrates that there are responsible and sustainable alternatives to relying on diesel generators and water-intensive cooling. We urge the Frederick County Council and Planning to consider these more responsible and sustainable alternatives for the planned data centers in Adamstown. We believe there should be a minimum setback of at least **1,500 feet** between data centers with diesel generators and residential communities, schools, and daycare centers. This buffer zone, along with leaving the existing trees behind the school, would help to mitigate the noise and air pollution impacts on our community.

The current map is misleading and does not accurately represent the true proximity of the planned data centers to a large number of local residents. We urge you to correct the CDI Overlay Map and submit an updated version to the state that includes all

neighboring residential areas. We also ask that you provide a clear, precise answer regarding the distance between the planned data centers and Carroll Manor Elementary School and Creative Memories Children's Learning Center, and to implement a minimum setback of 1,500 feet to protect our children and residents from these harmful effects.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

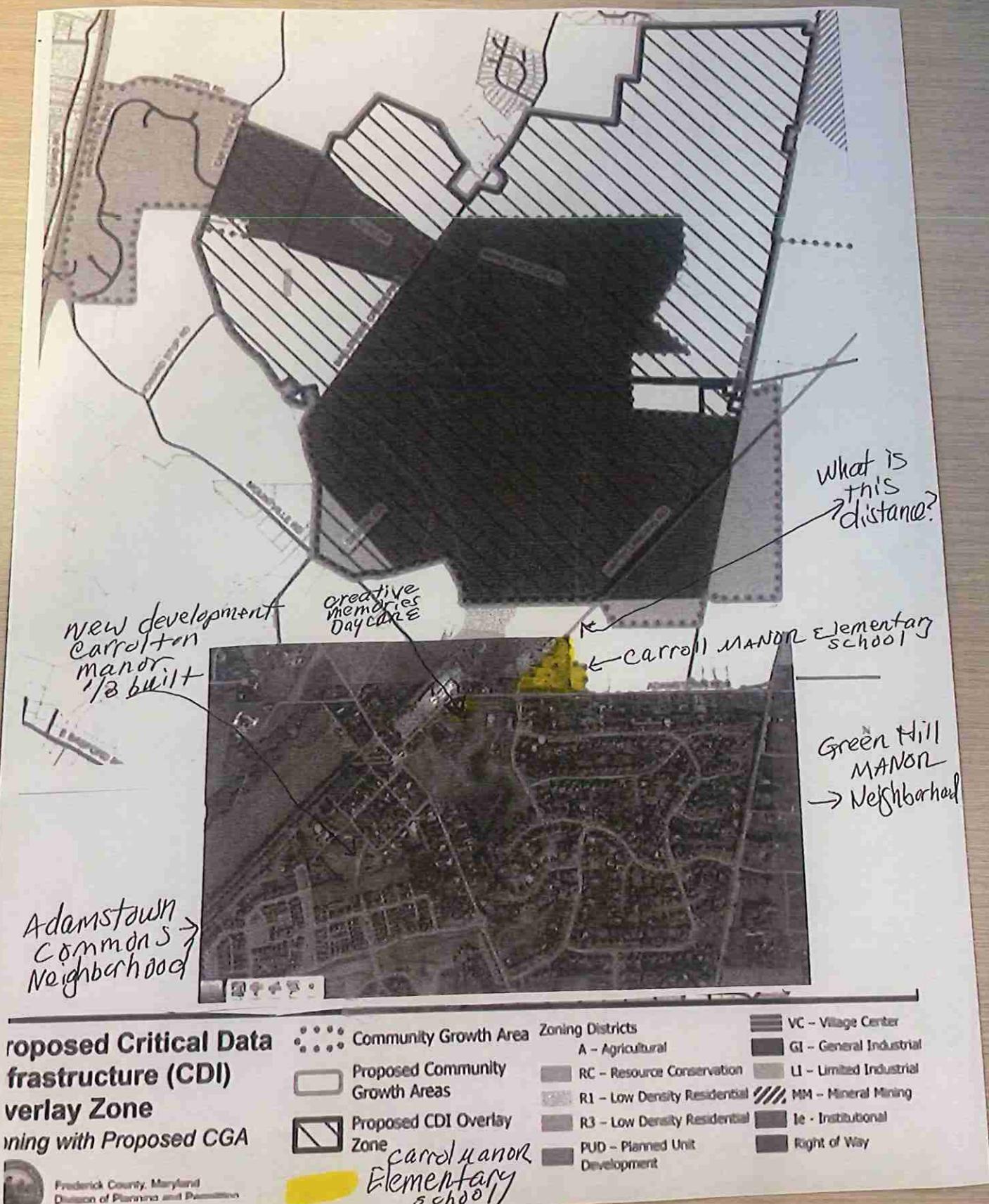
A Concerned Resident of Adamstown, MD

Elyse Wilson

Ken Stephens

2799 Decatur Drive

Adamstown MD 21710



Proposed Critical Data Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone

Planning with Proposed CGA



**Frederick County, Maryland
Department of Planning and Permitting**