

From: [DMD Engagement](#)
To: [Patz, Bryce](#)
Subject: Fw: Amended version of the Draft Zoning Regulations for Data Centers
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 9:05:44 AM

DMD Engagement Team

Talk to a planner: planneroncall@indy.gov

Submit a petition: <https://www.indy.gov/form/land-use-petition-submission>

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From: Tina Oakes <tinaopenh20@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 12:39 PM
To: DMD Engagement <dmdengagement@indy.gov>
Cc: Megan Anderson <megan.anderson@sierraclub.org>
Subject: Re: Amended version of the Draft Zoning Regulations for Data Centers

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing regarding the draft zoning regulations amended on June 26, 2026, for proposed data centers. Specifically, I am concerned that the sound level requirements in Section 4 do not adequately protect nearby residents from noise that may interfere with outdoor activities, reduce quality of life, or, over time, contribute to excessive noise exposure. For purposes of this letter, I use the terms sound and noise interchangeably, as noise is the term more commonly used in environmental regulations.

Section 4 currently limits the maximum sound level associated with any component of a data center to 55 decibels (dB) measured at or beyond the property line. However, data centers contain numerous noise-producing components that operate simultaneously. Because sound levels are cumulative and are combined using logarithmic calculations rather than simple addition, compliance should be based on the total noise generated by all operating equipment—not on the sound level of each individual component. Accordingly, I respectfully request that Section 4 be revised to require that:

- Noise measurements reflect the cumulative sound generated by all operating equipment.
- Sound measurements be conducted using accepted federal, state, and industry-recognized methodologies.

- Compliance be verified through measurements taken at multiple times of day and under representative operating conditions, rather than relying on a single measurement.
- Enforcement procedures clearly specify how cumulative noise levels will be measured, calculated, and monitored over time.

These revisions would complement the Noise Study requirements described in Section 10(h) on page 4. I also recommend that Section 10(h) explicitly reference nationally recognized noise guidelines, in addition to applicable regulations, to ensure that noise studies evaluate both regulatory compliance and protection of public health and welfare.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's publication Information on Levels of Environmental Noise Requisite to Protect Public Health and Welfare with an Adequate Margin of Safety (EPA/ONAC 550/9-74-004, March 1974) identifies the following recommended environmental noise levels:

- A 24-hour average exposure of 70 dB to prevent measurable hearing loss over a lifetime.
- An outdoor average of 55 dB to prevent activity interference and annoyance.
- An indoor average of 45 dB to protect residential areas, schools, and hospitals.

The EPA further notes that these values are long-term average noise levels rather than single-event or peak measurements. Therefore, any noise study should evaluate average noise exposure over appropriate time periods using accepted acoustic measurement methods.

I respectfully request that this provision be revised to address cumulative noise from all data center operations and to establish clear standards for measurement, monitoring, and enforcement that are consistent with accepted acoustic practices and recognized public health guidelines. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Thank you,

Tina M Oakes
317-523-7022

Sent from my iPad

From: [DMD Engagement](#)
To: [Patz, Bryce](#)
Subject: Fw: Item 15 (2026-AO-001): Please Decline and Support a Data Center Moratorium
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 9:05:04 AM

DMD Engagement Team

Talk to a planner: planneroncall@indy.gov

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From: Tyler Wade <tjwade12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 9:43 AM
To: DMD Engagement <dmdengagement@indy.gov>
Subject: Item 15 (2026-AO-001): Please Decline and Support a Data Center Moratorium

To President Dillon, Secretary Murphy, and Members of the Metropolitan Development Commission (Bruce Schumacher, Brandon Herget, Brent Lyle, Daniel Moriarty, Brigid Robinson, and Gregg West):

I am writing as an Indianapolis-Marion County resident regarding Item 15 on tomorrow's, July 1 agenda — Proposal 2026-AO-001, the General Ordinance amendment creating a new Special Use District (SU-47) for data center development. I respectfully ask the Commission to decline to advance this ordinance as written and instead support a moratorium on new data center approvals while a stronger ordinance is developed.

I recognize the draft has been revised since its initial version, including amendments as recently as June 26. The setback from protected districts like parks and schools was increased from 200 to 400 feet, and the maximum noise limit was lowered from 65 to 55 decibels. I appreciate that real public input shaped these changes. But even with these improvements, I don't believe the ordinance goes far enough to protect residents, schools, parks, and neighborhoods from the realities of large-scale data center development: continuous industrial noise, diesel generator emissions, and electricity and water demands that can rival those of an entire city.

On May 4, the City-County Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on this Commission to pause new data center approvals until stronger standards are adopted. That was a unanimous, bipartisan statement from our elected representatives, and I believe it deserves to be honored rather than worked around through a fast-tracked ordinance.

I ask the Commission to:

1. Decline to recommend 2026-AO-001 for approval in its current form.
2. Support a moratorium on new data center approvals, consistent with the Council's May 4 resolution, while a more protective ordinance is developed.
3. Use that time to strengthen setbacks, noise limits, and backup power requirements, and to ensure meaningful public hearings are held across Marion County's townships before further rezoning decisions are made.

Indianapolis families deserve protections that match the true scale and impact of these facilities. I urge the Commission to take the time to get this right rather than advance an ordinance that residents, watchdog groups, and the City-County Council have said doesn't go far enough.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tyler Wade
Indianapolis, Indiana

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Tyler J. Wade
tjwade12@gmail.com
(c) 765.721.0927