

# Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group

## Chinn Library/ Teams

Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Team Check-in

- Wade: updated DCOAG Amanda Fink will be filling in for Mandi Spina.
  - Discussed plans for the testing next week -Jan 15-17.
  - Request feedback from DCOAG members regarding any outstanding issues.
- Dale: The Amazon Meeting was about 1 month ago and has not heard back with a proposal from Amazon to address the continuous noise issue. He brought this up because Amazon is looking for approval of the Ashton data center during the upcoming Board of County Supervisors meeting on February 4. Dale also raised a concern with one of the proffer conditions that limits daytime noise to 65 decibels, which is louder than Great Oak and is located next to PWCPS.
- Bill Wright would like to propose Martin Jeter to be part of DCOAG. Mr. Jeter resides in the Occoquan district, serves on the Prince William County Sustainability Commission, and holds the position of president of The Mid-County Civic Association.
  - Kathy K. seconded the request for his membership in DCOAG
  - Wade H: Acknowledged the request.
- Michelle T: Clarified the Ashton Amazon item will be removed from the Board of County Supervisors meeting on Jan 21- Confirmed with the Planning Office.
- Kathy Kulick- Dec 18 – Experienced frequency vibration at her residence and described the noise as “a freight train that sounds like it's going to come through and never does” being more pronounced in the upper level of her home. This lasted until 8:45 pm. She did reach out to neighbors to see if they were also experiencing the same. Police were not called as she wanted to make sure the noise was coming from the data centers that are located 4 miles away from her residence.
  - Reiterated the importance of temporary Continuous perimeter monitoring of the Data Centers, we need to identify the source. This would be fundamental to holding data centers accountable.
  - Siting – This should be part of the DCOAG purview.
  - Kathy asked Wade to look into the noise issue that occurred on December 18 to see if one of the data centers were conducting testing (generators?).
- Dale B: supports Kathy's suggestion for continuing perimeter monitoring. Industries will not have the opportunity to say it's not coming from their facilities. Having experience with Amazon would be beneficial.
  - Requested an update for a noise model from Brickyard Way request sent on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>,
    - Wade- No updates received and will follow up.

## **David Nelson- Discuss the Noise Criterion**

- Discussed incorporating language in the Noise Ordinance draft to give the county flexibility to extend noise monitoring beyond the minimum of 10 minutes.
- JMT will prepare a noise model and sound testing format to be used as a resource for enforcement. The model and testing formats will include Octave band data. The model will factor in the direction of the noise. The Ordinance should include a requirement for perimeter noise testing.
- Data must be measurable to present in Court. Additional noise studies and monitoring could be ordered through the courts during enforcement proceedings.
- NDA clarification – The applicant’s attorney needs to justify the FOIA exemption being exercised. This will vary from project to project.
- Discussed what would be reasonable to ask in modeling data, and continued noise measurements. The accuracy of models is about 3dB.
  - Important piece for the Noise Model- the direction, JMT will add language to the Noise Ordinance Draft.
- 30-day continuous monitoring – a 10-minute minimum snapshot would be beneficial for data purposes.
- Discussed exploring options to require data centers to install and share continuous perimeter monitoring with new applications, this may not work for already established data centers.
- Discussed the possibility of having an additional consultant for continuous noise measurement.
- Kathy commented that we (the County) should budget for 30 days of testing (24/7) to obtain good ambient noise numbers prior to the start of construction.

## **JMT updates**

- **JLARC report clarification**

## **Discussed January Meetings**

- **Jan 15<sup>th</sup> -Moseley**
- **Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> -Moseley**
- **January 29<sup>th</sup> - JMT/ David**