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Initially, many looked upon data centers as a gift to the community providing jobs and tax revenue with very few direct negative impacts (e.g., low traffic demands and low onsite pollution). However, data centers have huge power and water needs.

Studies have shown that when data centers come in their huge power requirements result in higher residential energy costs.

Montgomery County and the DC area already have a limited supply of fresh water. Like many residents last month I was complying with WSSC guidelines to reduce water use during the storm. It made me wonder - in times of drought or extreme heat or cold when residents are asked to reduce water or power use - would the much higher use of data centers in the county also be restricted? We've just found out that the proposed project in Dickerson will use 2 million gallons of the Potomac per day. What does that mean in our increasingly drought filled summers?

These are the kinds of questions that we don't have answers to yet. Until we do, a moratorium needs to be in place - and quickly. We can't go back and add regulations to the project in Dickerson speeding toward approval.

Please include my comments in the hearing record.