

January 28, 2026

Concerned Commenter:

Thank you for contacting the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) to share your concerns regarding Pending No. 2025-159 for the modification application submitted by Amazon Data Services, Inc. (Amazon).

The Commission shares your concerns about the potential impacts of consumptive water use, and strives to ensure that water uses are sustainable and that other users and aquatic habitats are protected. The Commission appreciates the public participation for this project and has prepared this response to the comments and questions that have been received to date. Commission staff is sending this letter to address not only your comments, but also comments provided by your neighbors and other concerned citizens. If you have any additional questions or comments, or do not believe this letter adequately addresses your comments, please contact any of the people listed at the end of this letter. Provided below are responses to frequently asked questions and an update regarding the status of the Commission's review:

1. What is the Susquehanna River Basin Commission?

The Commission is an independent water resource management agency created as a federal-interstate compact commission with members from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Federal government. The Mission of the Commission, which is defined in the Compact, is to enhance public welfare through comprehensive planning, water supply allocation, and management of the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Commission regulates water withdrawals, consumptive use of water, and diversions into and out of the basin.

2. Why is Amazon requesting a modification to their existing approval?

Amazon's original application requested a consumptive use quantity that was only intended to support the initial phase of the project which consisted of three buildings. The Commission approved the originally requested quantity of 60,000 gallons per day (gpd), based on a 30-day average, on September 12, 2024, as Docket No. 20240901, and conditioned the approval to contact the Commission prior to expansion beyond the three buildings outlined in the original application. Amazon's current application is now requesting a total quantity of 277,000 gpd (30-day average) that is proposed to supply the full build-out of the proposed data center campus.

3. *Will they use 277,000 gpd, every day, all year?*

No. Amazon has stated that they only intend to use water for evaporative cooling for the proposed data center during a portion of the year, generally during the hottest summer months. During the remainder of a calendar year, minimal to no water use is anticipated for evaporative cooling processes at the facility.

To relate Amazon's requested quantity to other more common water uses, the proposed facility's consumptive use would be slightly less than the average consumptive use associated with a golf course in the Susquehanna River Basin.

4. *How is the requested quantity and the cumulative impacts evaluated in the Commission's technical review?*

Applications undergo a rigorous, scientific review. Highly trained hydrologists, and licensed geologists and engineers, apply the latest science and technology to determine whether or not a water use will negatively impact the environment and/or other users.

Commission staff evaluates the application and determines if the projected demand is justified and realistic for the proposed facility and use. Staff also evaluates if a requested quantity from the proposed sources are sustainable and available. Additionally, the Commission's [*Cumulative Water Use and Availability Study for the Susquehanna River Basin*](#) provides watershed scale information that is assessed during technical review considerations.

Amazon's application is not proposing or requesting approval of a withdrawal and water is primarily to be supplied from public water supply. The public water supply maintains existing approvals for their sources from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and/or the Commission, and those withdrawals were previously evaluated for sustainability and available capacity.

5. *Will the public water supply have enough water to support Amazon and the community?*

Amazon's primary water source will be public water supply from Pennsylvania – American Water Company's Berwick system, while other sources of water are for redundant and back-up purposes. The Berwick system currently has approvals for multiple sources that are approved for withdrawal of several million gallons of water per day. Amazon also proposes to have significant water storage at the facility, which can lessen daily water quantity pulled from the public water supply during hot and dry conditions.

As a requirement of the application, the public water supplier provided a Will-Serve letter to indicate their ability to supply water and has sufficient capacity to serve the proposed project. Public water supply systems require approval from not only the Commission but also PADEP. The Commission coordinates with PADEP on every application prior to the commissioners taking action to identify and resolve potential conflicts among water users. Staff is considering the overall projected demand for the project with respect to the application currently under review.

6. *How will emissions, noise, and discharges be regulated, and will they provide environmental protections from any contaminants?*

Although air quality issues, noise, and wastewater disposal are common and understandable concerns for any community faced with new or expanding projects, the Commission does not have jurisdiction over these issues. The Commission's authority is limited to aspects of water quantity and is also tasked with not being duplicative of other agencies. Accordingly, public concerns regarding the potential impacts to air quality, water treatment, and wastewater discharges are matters under the jurisdiction of PADEP. Noise concerns are generally regulated at the municipality.

If approved, the Commission will require Amazon to obtain all necessary permits and/or approvals required for the project from other federal, state, or local government agencies including those that have jurisdiction related to air emissions, water quality, wastewater treatment, and discharges. All such permits and/or approvals would need to be obtained prior to project operation. The Commission reserves the right to modify, suspend, or revoke its approval if Amazon fails to obtain or maintain such approvals.

7. *How can the Commission ensure Amazon will remain compliant?*

The Commission enforces its rules through dedicated compliance program staff who audit records and conduct facility inspections to ensure compliance with the conditions of an approval and Commission regulations. The Commission maintains the right to inspect a project, at any time, for compliance with a project's approval. Approved projects are required to collect, maintain, and report daily water use data using certified meters and equipment. These data are submitted quarterly and are screened for compliance with approval conditions upon receipt. Although this information is typically reported quarterly, monitoring data can be requested by Commission staff at any time deemed necessary/appropriate.

8. *What is the Commission's public process prior to taking action, and will there be a public hearing for the proposed project?*

The Commission has a stringent public notification process that is to ensure effective opportunity for public comment during the review phase of applications submitted to the Commission, and is committed to maintaining open meeting practices that provide similar public access to its processes and transparency with respect to its actions. The Commission's application process requires projects to complete a notification process, which includes the project sending notification letters to the municipality, county, county agency, and state with jurisdiction in the area of the project, and includes a public notice to be published in a newspaper that circulates in the area of the project. Additionally, a summary of the application materials for pending projects and all approvals are available on the Commission's Water Application and Approval Viewer (WAAV) for public access at: <https://www.srbc.gov/waav>.

Applications requiring commissioner action are subject to a public hearing, which is open to the public in order to provide verbal testimony on those projects. The upcoming public hearing is scheduled for January 29, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Participation in the hearing can be in person or

telephonically. Information regarding the public hearing can be found at: <https://www.srbc.gov/about/meetings-events/public-hearing.html>.

Written comments can be submitted through February 9, 2026. All written comments submitted to the Commission and a transcript of the testimony received at the public hearing will be provided to the commissioners so that they may take them into consideration prior to making a final decision. Additionally, those individuals will receive a courtesy notice when the application is scheduled for action at a quarterly business meeting.

9. *What is the status of the Commission's review?*

The Commission's technical review of the application is ongoing. Following completion of the technical review, staff will prepare recommendations to be presented to the commissioners for their consideration at a quarterly Commission business meeting, which is currently scheduled for March 12, 2026. Additional information on the business meeting will be available at <https://www.srbc.gov/about/meetings-events/>.

To monitor the status of the application or view a summary of the application materials, you can visit: <https://www.srbc.gov/waav>. Additional information regarding the Commission and our process is also available on our website at: www.srbc.gov.

10. *What if I have other questions or would like additional information?*

If you have any additional questions or concerns, you can contact any of the Commission staff below:

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