Montanans Need Answers on Data Center

WATER USE
- How much water will be used daily, monthly, annually, and over the life of the project?
- Where will the water come from? What infrastructure is needed to transport water?
- Who pays to build and maintain the system?
- What will happen to existing water users if the project impacts their water resources?
- If using groundwater, what is the depth of the aquifer? What are the existing uses of the aquifer? Has the aquifer been adequately characterized? Will the aquifer be depleted over time? Is the aquifer a potential source of fresh water for existing uses?

WATER TREATMENT
- What is the chemical composition and temperature of incoming and discharged water?
- What type of treatment is needed?
- What chemicals will be added to cooling water? Where will the wastewater be discharged? Will the discharge of wastewater be monitored and publicly available?
- Is the municipal treatment system capable of treating wastewater volume, temperature, and chemical constituents that are added by the data center (surfactants, biocides, PFAs, etc.)?
- Who will pay for wastewater treatment or necessary upgrades?

ELECTRICITY
- How could existing utility customers' electricity bills be impacted? How will residential and small business utility customers be protected from cost increases?
- How much electricity will be needed? What type of electricity will be used?
- If using a gas plant to power the data center, how large will it be and what are the related infrastructure needs? What pipelines are needed, what size is needed and where will they be located? What are the quantity and composition of the air emissions?
- Will renewable energy resources be used? Where will the renewables projects be located? Will the data center be operational prior to renewable generation being operational?
- What backup generation is expected (type and megawatts)? What are the size and number of backup diesel generators? How much will they be permitted to operate? What will the concentration and composition of pollutants be when the primary and backup generators are used over a day, month and year? How could that impact nearby or downwind homeowners or businesses? Is the area in nonattainment? At times of high air pollution levels (wildfire season), will plant emissions be decreased to protect local residents?
- How will reliability of the electric system be protected during peak demand? Is there a limit in their operations? Will there be noise limits for backup generators?
- Does the data center developer support a separate electricity customer rate class for data centers? Does it support electric tariffs to protect existing customers from stranded assets or cost shifting? What has it done to support such protections at the Governor's Energy Task Force, Legislature, and Public Service Commission?
- Who will pay for the transmission and distribution infrastructure when it connects to NWE's existing system? Will the data center pay for the maintenance costs over time or will those be

spread across all utility customers? What's the timeframe for the interconnection and development processes?

● Could experimental small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) be used? How may and what type? Where will the radioactive waste be stored? Where will the uranium or fuel be sourced and on what roads will it travel? How much water would be needed? What will the review process be and will the developer request SMR permitting be fast-tracked?

● Will data centers be served by NWE's new shares of the Colstrip plant? Will the data center pay its full share of operation, maintenance, fuel and capital expenditures for the Colstrip plant? How will that be guaranteed? Will cost allocations be transparent so the public can verify that it is not subsidizing the data center's share of the plant?

● What is the contract term and price for electricity from the utility? How will the data center provide full transparency regarding the contract terms and price so the public can verify it pays the full costs of electricity from NWE? Will it refuse any request to redact contracts and notices of intent at PSC?

● Will developer agree to a bond or other financial assurance to cover the costs of the data center's impacts should it exit the system prior to payment of the full cost of services?

COMMUNITY IMPACTS AND PROJECT SPECIFIC IMPACTS

● What is the true scale of this project over time? How many megawatts of power will the facility need and how much land area will it require? Are there any intentions to expand the operations after initial construction? If so, what is the long-term plan and impacts?

● Does the data center intend to ever sell or transfer the project to a third party? What guarantees are there that all promises are kept by subsequent owners?

● Who will pay for new infrastructure and upkeep over time? Roads? Wastewater treatment? Schools? Community impacts? How can these commitments be enforced?

● Will the data center pay to improve the capacity of the local fire department?

● If the data center leaves the area before the full costs of its impacts are paid, who will pay?

● Has acoustical modeling been completed? Is there a plan to mitigate noise issues if the

● acoustical modeling does not match the results of real world sound modeling? What exactly will the data center do to reduce noise levels for people in the area? What will the sound level be in decibels at the fence line and how can that be enforced? Will the data center pay for real-time noise level monitoring that is readily available to nearby residents?

● What vibrations will be associated with the facility and how can they be limited?

● How will the facility's lighting impacts to neighbors and wildlife be minimized?

● Data centers use rapidly evolving technology, generating large amounts of electronic waste over time. Will all of the e-waste be recycled? How? If not, where will e-waste be disposed?

FINANCING & OPERATIONS

● What kind of clientele will the data center serve (e.g., large tenants that supply their own

● CPU and GPU equipment or smaller tenants who will use the existing hardware

● configuration)?

● Will the data center be used to train AI?

● What is the plan to address any gaps between expected revenues and actual revenues?

● Will the data center claim or take advantage of a tax exemption.