
Ann Vinatieri
Sugarloaf, PA

September 1st, 2026 DEP CAC public comment

Good afternoon CAC committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak. In light of information that the Governor's office would be addressing his recent EO regarding data centers, I would like to point out some serious concerns that I wish to share with the CAC.

A clear issue has arisen: ***corporate capture within nearly every branch of state government, particularly the Department of Environmental Protection.*** It has come to my attention through citizen-obtained Right to Know requests, and confirmed through my personal experience, that in the realm of data center buildout in PA, there is a concerted effort to obfuscate the nature and status of permits and information related to these projects. This is to the exclusion of the press and citizens.

In communication between a 3rd party consultant for Amazon Web Services, and Office of Chief Counsel, they outline the desire to have "Charles and Shawn will serve respectively as the primary points of contact for state-level RTK requests for AWS' DC (data center) projects in the Commonwealth."

This was reflected in my personal experience with the DEP NE Regional Office. On December 24th, I received communication stating that my informal review request for a DEP Waterways permit for the proposed AWS Kline Township site (aka Project McAdoo/Project Major) was DENIED. I was then informed that in order to obtain this simple permit, I would be delayed even further and would have to file a formal RTK request. In conversation with the office worker, they admitted to me that there was "pushback" from AWS legal to DEP legal for permit requests.

Imagine my shock at hearing these words. ***It was at this moment that I knew the DEP was fully compromised.*** It has ceased to be “protective” as its name denotes and is now a rubber stamping agency for corporate whims.

When I received this email exchange in the RTK communication, approximately 1 month after my DEP interaction, it suddenly all made sense. This was a carefully calculated strategy by AWS and the Governor’s administration.

To further prove what is going on in locations like Kline Township, in January, there was a series of ***same day*** DEP permit transfers for AWS. They were able to submit the previous owner’s permits (Brewster Land Company) for proposed warehouse use. To transfer permits in a single work day from warehouse-related use to heavy industrial use for data centers, is both irresponsible and lacks due diligence; the opportunity for the public to request public Q&A or DEP public hearing of any sort is cut short before they ever had a fair chance.

In the case of Kline Township, the site is in an Environmental Justice Community, as well as being in a well studied cancer cluster area, and less than 1 mile from a remediated EPA superfund site.

These actions have effectively stripped the public of any recourse, by keeping everything in the shadows. It is truly appalling that vulnerable communities all over the commonwealth are being targeted by these predatory tactics.

Please advocate for the people. We implore you. We do not have time for more paper shuffling and blame shifting. I request further dialogue and actionable measures in these matters and would be happy to assist or discuss in any way that may be useful.

Respectfully submitted, Annie Vinatieri

Please see the attached PDF and Images.

