

South Dakota Data Centers: Separating Facts from Fiction

An easy-to-digest comparison between common misconceptions and the reality of data centers in South Dakota, addressing concerns and providing accurate information for local communities.



1

Jobs and Economic Impact



FICTION: "There are not very many jobs"



THE REALITY: 200 full-time, on-site workers

This is a significant number of jobs for rural Deuel County - enough to make a real economic impact without overwhelming the local community. These are quality, permanent positions that will strengthen the local economy.

2

Power Grid Reliability



FICTION: "Power outages will increase"



THE REALITY: Triple Protection System:

- MISO requires reliability studies and grid improvements
- The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission regulates utilities in state for rates and reliability
- On-site backup generation allows the facility to be off grid if the grid needs it

The grid becomes more reliable, not less.

3

Noise Levels



FICTION: "Data centers sound like Niagara Falls"



THE REALITY: APLD has worked with communities in the past and is committed to continuing to work with communities in the future to ensure that dB levels meet local needs. Volume levels are regularly reduced to reasonable levels by distance, barriers, and technology to make sure that neighbors are not unfairly burdened by noise.

4

Cyber Security



FICTION: "These facilities are a cyber security concern"



THE REALITY: Cyber security is a concern for all businesses. However, data centers are equipped with layers of physical and digital security to protect them. Security protocols are monitored closely with state of the art systems and highly trained staff. Cyber security needs create a variety of new jobs in the community.

5

Energy Prices



FICTION: "Energy consumption will drive up prices"



THE REALITY: Proven Track Record in North Dakota:

APLD's Ellendale, ND project led to:

\$5.4 million rate decrease for MDU's ND rate payers for APLD's 2023 activities

\$14 million estimated rate decrease for APLD's 2024 activities

- Jamestown, ND consumers saw NO rate increases
- The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ensures utility companies in South Dakota provide safe and reliable services and that investor-owned utility companies do so with just and reasonable rates.

6

Water Usage



FICTION: "Data centers use millions of gallons of water and will harm drought-stricken South Dakota"



THE REALITY: APLD's cold-climate design is different:

- Closed-loop cooling system recirculates water continuously - no water consumption
- Closed-loop cooling systems are filled with water trucked in from specialized treatment facilities
- Water used only for: bathrooms, kitchens, equipment cleaning
- Maximum connection capacity: 10 gallons per minute (same as most houses)
- Actual usage will be even lower than the maximum capacity, estimated to be 2/3 of one household's annual water consumption

7

Community Impact



FICTION: "Data centers will destroy our way of life"



THE REALITY: Low-Impact, High-Benefit Neighbors:

- Small land footprint with minimal environmental impact
- Would be the largest property and sales tax contributor in the county (likely one of the largest in the state)
- Provides property tax relief for all South Dakota residents
- Supports funding for roads, schools, and essential services

Maximum economic benefit + Minimal community impact = Win-Win

The Bottom Line: APLD data centers represent responsible economic development: creating quality jobs, generating substantial tax revenue, and supporting local communities while maintaining the highest standards for environmental stewardship and community compatibility.