

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) should include specific drought conditions on withdrawal amounts based on adjacent groundwater and surface water levels. Additionally, EPD should require a drought contingency plan.

EPD should also conduct an aquifer drawdown study to assess water withdrawal effects on surrounding users, such as nearby agricultural withdrawals. See for example EPD's study with groundwater withdrawal permits adjacent to the Bryan County Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America (HMGMA).

Wastewater Discharge

There is no NPDES permit for this facility. The DRI should not be completed until such a permit is granted.

EPD should carefully study how much treated wastewater will result, and where and when it will go. It is likely to be a significant tributary of the Alapaha River, especially in drought conditions such as we are having now.

No permit, NPDES or DRI, should be issued without such a wastewater study.

Hyper-Scale Datacenters

These are not search or cloud datacenters. They are hyper-scale datacenters for so-called artificial intelligence (AI). The AI industry may be a bubble and putting too many eggs in one basket for jobs and tax revenue is not prudent when the bubble may pop at any time. That could leave the local jurisdiction holding a contract with a shell company that has no assets. The local jurisdiction and the state would then have a mess to clean up, physically, environmentally, and financially.

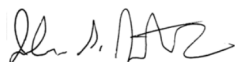
Public Hearings

I call for a Public Hearing on this DRI application.

Irwin County held three Public Hearings on its Data Center Ordinance, and added to it after citizen input.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

John S. Quarterman



Suwannee Riverkeeper

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