

Data Centers

A Regional Approach to Planning

Tim Maloney, Director, Planning, Development & Inspections

Terry Nolan, Planner III

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Purpose

- **To verify the role of Wake County in coordinating regional partners to develop guidance for decision-makers.**

Planning for Data Centers

- **Data Centers Range in Size and Type**
- **Recent inquiries require 300-400MW**
- **The impacts of large Data Centers may include:**
 - Energy infrastructure and grid stress
 - Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant current output is 928MW
 - Water availability and consumption
 - Environmental concerns
 - Economic impact
 - Nuisance issues

Background

- Wake County hosts regular meetings with municipal planning directors and other stakeholders.
- County staff led a discussion with planning directors, asking about development interest in data centers.
- Apex has received an annexation & rezoning request. Other communities have been approached.
- Municipalities expressed interest in the County organizing regional discussion/coordination.

Why Wake County?

- **Staff have expertise in local and regional impacts**
- **Established relationships with stakeholders**
 - Municipalities
 - Duke Energy
 - Public utility providers
 - Wake County Economic Development
 - NC Department of Environmental Quality
 - Central Pines Council of Government

Deliverables

- **Establish a unified set of tools, resources and documentation to help guide decision-making**
 - Coordinate planning efforts across jurisdictions to address shared challenges and opportunities.
 - Develop a unified framework for evaluating and managing the impacts of data centers on infrastructure, environment, land use, and community well-being.

Next Steps

- Meeting with the Council of Governments.
- Convene community stakeholders in regular discussions.
- Research other approaches to data centers across the country.
- Gather information from experts in the field.
- Leverage resources from the American Planning Association and other professional groups.
- Prepare progress report to the Commissioners early next year.



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