



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

October 9, 2026

Leah Feldon, Director
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Director Feldon,

Thank you for your update on progress being made at DEQ to improve air quality permitting processes to align with the priorities of HB 4084 (2026). I know you are working hard to identify ways to support my vision for driving progress on Oregon's Prosperity Roadmap—bringing together business, labor, education, local governments, and communities around a shared strategy to grow our economy in ways that create opportunity across every region of our state. Your agency's continued work to identify ways to streamline and align permitting processes will be important to that priority effort.

How we facilitate responsible economic growth is also critical to statewide prosperity. This is why I established the Data Center Advisory Committee, and why I have been taking actions to both support local moratoriums and restrict development of new Data Centers until we can assure Oregonians that our laws will adequately protect our communities and the environment of our state.

Consistent with this approach, I am asking you to exercise your existing administrative authority and discretion to pause processing and issuance of air or water discharge permit applications until July 1, 2027 that involve new or expanded data center facilities within Oregon. Specifically, this should include National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), Air Contaminant Discharge (ACDP), or Title V Air Quality permits relevant to construction and/or operation of new Data Center facilities. This pause should also include processing applications from municipalities seeking to renew or modify wastewater treatment plant facility permits in order to accommodate wastewater discharge from data center industrial facility sources.

This time limited pause will provide an opportunity for me to evaluate and digest recommendations forthcoming from the Advisory Committee, and to provide space for policy and/or regulatory reforms that may be considered in the upcoming 2027 session of the Legislature with my support.

Thank you for ensuring that our decisions and work reflect the needs and value of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek