MYTAPN (Danna Dal Porto)

As a resident of the Quincy Vally for 45 years, I have been subjected to the Quincy Data centers and their emissions from the beginning. I do not think Ecology protects the people in my community. Telling citizens the emission controls are too expensive when the facility will run for many years (50?)and is being developed by million dollar corporations does not ring true. Pretending the emissions do not mingle together over Quincy is also not believable. I think Ecology should do better by Quincy residents.

I want to know if the Department of Ecology initially (historically) required the Air Quality permit before construction of the facility. Microsoft's Columbia data center was built before permitting and that has been the standard since. As an educated person, how could the construction begin and end before the permit was issued? People who build houses get a permit first. Even a garage needs a permit first. Builders would need to know the limitations (if any) regarding the location, proximity to other facilities and their emissions as well as any physical challenges to the eventual permit. Diesel storage and concrete pads for generators must be done based on the permit. I do not see the logic in permitting after construction. I would vote to change the process. Air Quality permits should be required before any ground breaking and/or construction.

As far as the fee schedule, I agree that developers of data centers must pay their fair share and the technical skills in Ecology should not be cheap. I recommend an adjusted scale to make fees correspond to the complexity of the business. Small growers should not have to pay the same as a big data center. I prefer in-person meetings with Ecology staff but that is not always convenient. Personal meetings provide better communication with local interested persons.

I know this is an air quality comment but since Ecology is supposed to deal with the ENVIRONMENT, the water use by data centers is not being monitored by the State, as far as I can tell, only local authorities must monitor water use. The technical ability to monitor ground water should be done by the State. The requirements for locating and constructing a data center are short-sighted and do not take into consideration the limits/use of ground water in Eastern Washington. Figure out another way to cool the servers instead of water.

I want to thank the staff at Ecology who have helped me understand this data center stuff and have answered my questions. It is critical that Ecology make information easily available to citizens regarding air quality or any other issue.