

Pine Island MN city council is currently in discussions with Google and Ryan Companies for a hyperscale data center. While the advocates for such a facility explain this is a closed loop facility, water consumption (and expelling) still takes places periodically. Moreover, closed loop facilities may even pose larger threats that go beyond the gallons consumed. Please see concerns cited here (*Florida Water Pollution Control Operators Association*):

*A data center can be designed to use 50% less water, but if it inadvertently **pollutes a river or overloads a sewage plant**, the harm to the community can be far worse than the volume of water consumed.*

*Consider that **cooling tower blowdown** (the water bled off from cooling systems) tends to have **high mineral content (TDS)**, [traces of chemicals like chlorine or biocides](#), and altered pH. If dozens of data centers in one area are all discharging such water, the local wastewater treatment facility faces a huge load. In Northern Virginia's data center alley, for example, the **volume of wastewater from data centers is so large** that [utilities are closely watching capacity](#). **Overtaxed treatment plants** could lead to insufficiently treated water reaching streams, which threatens [aquatic life and public health](#). Moreover, **thermal pollution** is a factor: data centers sometimes release water that's significantly warmer, which can upset the ecology of rivers or lakes if not cooled.*

How does this proposed system plan to address the blowdown from the hyperscale data center, not to mention leakage from joints and fittings, basic mechanical tasks, pressure relief, system purging and flushing and permeation from hoses?