PUBLIC MEETING
AMAZON DATA SERVICES, INC
FREDERICK, MD DATA CENTER CAMPUS
DECEMBER 8, 2025

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Air Quality Permits Program

Air and Radiation Administration

Background

On October 29, 2024, Amazon Data Services, Inc. (Amazon) submitted an air quality permit to construct application for a proposed data center facility including the installation of the following air pollution emitting equipment:

Ninety-two (92) emergency generators each rated at 2,750-kilowatts, and each equipped with a diesel fired engine controlled by a Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) emissions control system and a Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) .

Six (6) emergency generators each rated at 750-kilowatts, and each equipped with a diesel fired engine. One (1) emergency generator rated at 250-kilowatts equipped with a diesel fired engine.

Public Comment Process

Emergency generators are subject to federal New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) under the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR, Part 60.

In accordance with Maryland law, the Department must provide an electronic notice of the permit application and allow the public to comment on any permit application for an air pollution source subject to NSPS.

On April 24, 2025, the Department held a public meeting so that Amazon could present their project to the public and to accept comments on the application.

Preliminary Determination

Following the public application meeting, the Department conducted the technical review of the application.

The review included verifying the estimated emissions from the project, determining applicable federal and State air quality regulations and requirements, and evaluating other data center air quality permits from other states.

On November 18, 2025, the Department released a draft air quality permit to construct for public review and comment.

Elements of the Permit to Construct

- Summary of Covered Installations and Processes
- General Provisions
- Applicable Air Quality Requirements
- Construction and Operating Conditions
- Monitoring and Testing
- Compliance Demonstration
- Record Keeping and Reporting

Applicable Air Quality Requirements

The emergency generators must meet federal NSPS engine requirements.

Each engine must be certified to meet emergency emissions standards and must be constructed, operated, and maintained according to manufacturer specifications.

The generators can only be operated for testing, maintenance, and emergency purposes and must only use ultra low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD) or renewable diesel fuel that meets the requirements of ULSD.

Premises Wide Limits

Premises wide emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) must be less than 25 tons per rolling 12-month period in order to be considered a minor source of emissions.

To comply with the premises wide limit on NOx emissions, the Permittee must use NOx control devices and limit fuel use and operation of the engines for testing and maintenance.

Complying with the NOx limit reduces the potential emissions of all other regulated pollutants to less than major source levels.

Control Device Requirements

The 92 emergency generators rated at 2,750-kilowatts will each be equipped with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) emission control system to reduce the NOx emissions from each engine.

The Permittee must continuously monitor SCR performance indicators such as the differential pressure, the catalyst bed temperature, the urea dosing rate, and outlet NOx concentrations.

Urea concentration must be either measured quarterly or replaced every 12 months.

Testing Requirements

The Permittee is required to perform initial stack NOx emissions tests of one third of the emergency generators equipped with SCR control devices within 180 days of start up of each generator.

Subsequent stack emissions tests for additional generators will be included in the Permittee's Air Quality State Permit to Operate.

Record Keeping Requirements

Records of all fuel usage and sulfur content, operating hours, emissions control system operating parameters measured, and urea concentration or replacement information.

Records of all manufacturer and vendor literature, maintenance performed, EPA Certificates of Conformity, and stack emissions test results.

Records of premises wide emissions of all pollutants in tons per month and tons per rolling 12-month period.

Reporting Requirements

- Semiannual reports of emissions, fuel consumption, and operating hours.
- Reports of all occurrences when emissions and/or fuel consumption are greater than the limits specified in the permit.
- Annual Emission Certification Reports

Air Quality State Permit to Operate

The permit to construct includes a temporary operating permit for 180 days from the operation date of the first emergency generator. The temporary period will be used to demonstrate initial compliance.

The Permittee shall apply for a five-year, renewable State Permit to Operate after demonstrating initial compliance.

How to Submit Written Comments and Next Steps

- Written comments may be sent via e-mail to Ms. Shannon Heafey at shannon.heafey@maryland.gov
- Written comments may be submitted through December 19, 2025.
- All comments will be reviewed and MDE will make a final determination on whether to issue or deny the permit.
- A formal response to comments document will be issued with the final determination.