The local citizen group Protect Fauquier and nonprofit organizations Citizens For Fauquier County (CFFC) and The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) are united against Amazon’s proposed data center project in Warrenton and we need your help stopping these two giants from trampling our Town.

The data center would sit at the northern gateway into Warrenton, along with a new Dominion electric substation, and would require miles of new high voltage transmission line supported by 110-feet-tall steel towers, according to Dominion Energy.

In September 2021, Amazon Web Services purchased the 41.8-acre parcel at Blackwell Road, behind Country Chevrolet. Shortly after, they submitted a request to Dominion for service to the site which according to Dominion could only be met with a new substation and transmission line. In April 2022, Dominion started a route selection process, and released maps showing miles of potential new transmission lines in the Town and County and held widely-attended public events with limited input opportunities. In May of 2022, Amazon submitted a special use permit (SUP) application to the Town of Warrenton to build the data center at that location, reserving eight acres for the new electric substation.
Key Talking Points

1. Amazon’s data center has **not** been approved. The Town Council must approve their special use permit for the data center proposal to go forward and WE CAN STOP IT.

2. The substation and transmission line are being proposed to serve the Amazon data center. According to Dominion staff, if the data center special use permit is denied, there’s no longer a data center load request driving the buildout of a new substation and transmission line.

3. Under current state policy, Dominion’s Virginia ratepayers, not Amazon, would foot the bill for the new substation and associated transmission line.

4. Including rooftop equipment, the proposed data center is estimated to be about 49 feet in height and located on a parcel that is elevated about 50 feet above the road. This fenced-in and lit up complex, along with the 8-acre substation and approximately 110-foot tall 230-kV transmission line, would likely have the effect of industrializing the eastern gateway into Warrenton.

5. Burying the transmission line would still carry significant impacts including 100-foot wide tree removal, loss of topsoil, limitations on private property development within the utility right-of-way, and degradation of streams, wetlands and groundwater. In addition, the cost of burying the lines, which Dominion claims is up to 15x the cost of overhead lines, may be prohibitive and is unlikely to be supported by the State Corporation Commission (SCC) who have historically only selected underground routes in a small fraction of cases under extraordinary circumstances.

6. Approval of this data center would likely set a precedent for more ill-conceived data center proposals that fail to evaluate the full impacts of the utility infrastructure they require. In addition, a new transmission line and substation would encourage more data center sites around it.

Actions to Take - Be Respectful!

Sign our petition:  
http://arcq.is/vW49T

Call, email and ask to meet with Town Council members
Make a donation to help with signs, t-shirts, FOIAs, printing and legal representation
Wear our red t-shirt
Inform your neighbors
Attend key Town meetings
Write a letter to the local papers

Warrenton Town Council

Carter Nevill, Mayor - cnevill@warrentonva.gov
Renard Carlos, At-large - rrcarlos@warrentonva.gov
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For More Information

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Citizens for Fauquier County: citizensforfauquier.org / Contact: Kevin Ramundo, President - ramundok@gmail.com; 704-965-2424

The Piedmont Environmental Council: pecva.org/blackwell / Contact: Kevin Kask, Fauquier County Field Representative - kkask@pecva.org; 540-347-2334, x7046