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Rockford, Illinois

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

To:

City of Rockford and all parties involved in the o TIF of South Rockford, redevelopment of TIF which includes the proposed data center. To include but not limited to City Clerk, City of Rockford and all departments involved.

RE: Written objection to proposed redevelopment project area

As a resident located near proposed data center and after investigation of the environmental and public health risks we object the TIF and the entire project.

Below are requests that will give the residents the full impact of the project and the health and environmental impact to the area.

No incentives, past or future zoning changes, or development approvals be granted for the proposed data center containing electrolysis power operations, or any other proposals within the TIF district, until comprehensive environmental, public health, emergency response, and infrastructure impact studies are completed and made publicly available.

1. Non-Native Electromagnetic Frequencies (nnEMF) From Electrolysis Operations

Electrolysis operations within the facility utilize high-voltage rectifiers, transformers, switching systems, and other electrical components that generate non-native electromagnetic frequency radiation (nnEMF).

We request:

- A full nnEMF Exposure Assessment including baseline EMF levels, projected emissions, propagation mapping, impacts on vulnerable populations, and wildlife assessment.
- Identification of frequency ranges and compliance verification.
- Ongoing public monitoring and reporting.

2. Water Use, Water Treatment, and Brine Disposal Concerns

Electrolysis water treatment produces brine and other chemical byproducts requiring strict regulation.

We request disclosure of disposal methods, chemical composition, IEPA permits, and potential environmental impacts.

Below is a small synopsis of just the water impact.

Key impacts of brine and chemical byproducts from electrolysis water treatment on waterways, and potential environmental consequences:

Primary physical and chemical impacts

- Increased salinity and ionic strength: concentrated salts raise local salinity, altering water density and stratification; harms freshwater species and stresses estuarine/marine organisms adapted to lower salinities.
- Elevated specific ions and metals: chloride, sodium, bromide, heavy metals or residual reactants (e.g., residual chlorine, hypochlorite, acids/alkalis) can be toxic to aquatic life and corrosive to infrastructure.
- Temperature changes: warm discharges can alter metabolic rates and oxygen solubility.
- Chemical oxidants/disinfectant byproducts: residual chlorine, chloramines, and halogenated disinfection byproducts (e.g., trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, bromate) are toxic and potentially carcinogenic for aquatic organisms and pose human-health risks if they reach drinking-water sources.
- Reduced dissolved oxygen (DO): high organic or reactive loads and changed stratification can lower DO, causing hypoxic/anoxic zones and fish kills.
- Altered pH: discharges with high/low pH upset local buffering and can mobilize metals in sediments.
- Increased turbidity and sedimentation: fines and precipitates from treatment processes can smother benthic habitats.

Ecological consequences

- Biodiversity loss: sensitive taxa (freshwater invertebrates, juvenile fish, amphibians, seagrasses, corals) decline; tolerant, opportunistic species dominate.
- Food-web disruption: primary producer declines (phytoplankton, seagrass) reduce habitat and food for higher trophic levels.
- Bioaccumulation and biomagnification: persistent contaminants/heavy metals and some halogenated organics accumulate in tissues, affecting predators and human consumers.
- Habitat degradation: benthic communities, spawning grounds, and marshes can be smothered or chemically altered.
- Invasive species advantage: altered salinity regimes can favor non-native species.

Human and infrastructure impacts

- Drinking water quality: increased salinity and DBPs complicate treatment; can make water unpalatable or unsafe without advanced treatment.
- Agricultural impacts: saline irrigation water reduces crop yields and degrades soils.
- Corrosion: higher chloride levels accelerate corrosion of pipes and coastal structures.
- Recreational and aesthetic losses: algal blooms, fish kills, odors reduce recreational value and tourism.

Fate and transport considerations

- Plume behavior: dense brine plumes can sink and travel along bottom currents, concentrating impacts on benthos and sediments rather than surface waters.
- Groundwater risk: improper disposal or infiltration can raise groundwater salinity and mobilize contaminants.
- Accumulation in closed basins: lakes/estuaries with poor flushing experience long-term salinization and pollutant buildup.

3. TIF Legal Requirements Under Illinois Law

Under 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4, a TIF cannot be approved unless:

1. The area qualifies as blighted or conservation.
2. Promotes public interest without shifting taxpayer burdens.
3. Includes comprehensive redevelopment program.
4. Activities are transparent and subject to community review.
5. Impacts on public services, emergency response, and infrastructure are assessed and mitigated. All proposals within the TIF district must comply with these statutory requirements before approval.

Data centers containing electrolysis power operations pose nnEMF, water, and fire risks that must be addressed.

4. Emergency Response and Public Safety Concerns

Electrolysis operations increase risks of high-voltage incidents, hydrogen-related fires, and chemical spills.

We request identification of responding departments, capability confirmation, and disaster response framework.

5. Required Studies Before ANY Approval

To responsibly evaluate risks, the following studies are required:

- 3D hydrogeologic study
- nnEMF impact study
- Stormwater, wastewater, and brine disposal analysis
- Wildlife impact assessment
- Emergency response capacity analysis
- Noise Pollution
- Cumulative impact modeling

- Full environmental disclosure beyond developer parcels

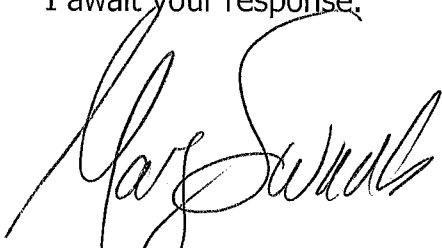
6. Transparency and Public Release of All Information

We request all studies and data be publicly accessible, presented in community meetings, online and submitted to each residential address in the affected area.

In conclusion, the residents in the area are exposed to many health risks and their property value is now non-existent.

Properties cannot be sold without full disclosure of the hazards. Clearly, there are no potential sales for any of the properties as who would want to expose themselves to the environmental and public health risks.

I await your response,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Swaab".

Robert and Mary Swaab

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