

Vantage Data Center: Proposed Air Permit Change



Public comment period:
June 8, 2017 – July 17, 2017

Public hearing:
July 12, 2017 – 5 p.m.
Quincy Community Center
115 F Street SW

To submit comments:

Online

<http://ac.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=8c3A9>

Email

kari.johnson@ecy.wa.gov

Mail

Department of Ecology
Kari Johnson
4601 North Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205

Document review locations:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/quincydatacenter

Quincy City Hall
115 1st Avenue SW

Quincy Library
208 Central Avenue South

Comment on the proposed change to the air permit for Vantage Data Center in Quincy

Vantage Data Center applied to Ecology to change its air permit. The data center facility called Riker is located at 2101 M Street NE in Quincy.

Ecology approved an air permit for the facility's diesel generators in 2013, which included pollution controls proposed by Vantage. Air testing found that the pollution control equipment added to the generators did not work as expected, so Vantage proposed to change the pollution controls.

The proposed permit would allow:

- 17 emergency generators (5 currently installed) to operate as long as they meet federal air quality standards, without adding stricter emission controls
- generators to be operated at wider range of loads compared to the current permit (a load on an engine is like driving uphill with the air conditioning on)
- higher exhaust stacks (from 43 feet to 48 feet) on the 12 generators that haven't been installed yet



Riker facility

Language assistance

Para asistencia en español
(509) 329-3444
preguntas@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations

For special accommodations or documents in alternate format, call (509) 329-3400, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

Questions

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Related links

Focus on Diesel Exhaust Health Risks ([English](#) and [Español](#))

[Data Centers and Air Quality](#)

How Ecology evaluates diesel engine exhaust

When Ecology reviews the permit application for a data center, we look at how much the project will add to air pollutants in the area. We cannot approve a permit that allows pollutants to be emitted often enough or in high enough levels to cause health problems.

Ecology relies on computer models to estimate where the wind will carry the pollutants in the exhaust from the diesel generators. These models predict the amount of toxic air pollutants that could be in the air. We review modeling information and assess the possible health risks.

Modeling impacts from all data centers in Quincy

Ecology evaluates the emissions from each individual data center as well as the combined emissions from all data centers and other air sources in the Quincy area. To do this, Ecology considers all the emissions in the area to determine if the combined impact would be harmful to human health. This is called “community modeling.” Community modeling was used in Quincy because many companies have built data centers there.

The health risks

Diesel engine exhaust contains fine particles and other chemicals (such as nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, organic compounds, and diesel exhaust particles) that can cause health problems for people who are exposed frequently and at high enough levels. Diesel exhaust particles and nitrogen dioxide are the most likely to be produced in high enough amounts to affect our health.

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