

HEAVY FOOTPRINTS



THE NC DATA CENTER FIGHT
TWO NC CASE STUDIES

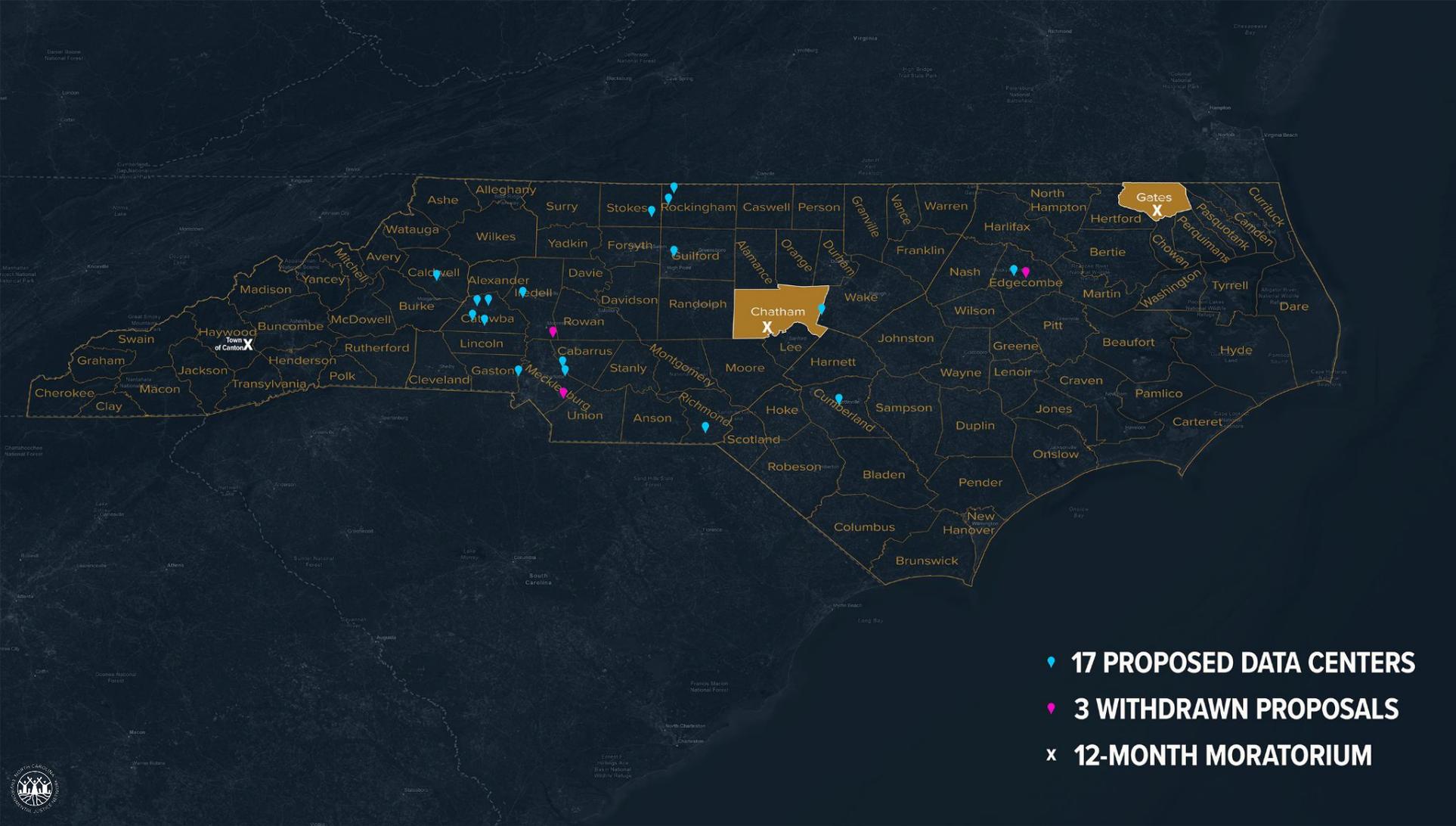


Dr. Rania Masri & Luma Kennedy

IMPACTS OF DATA CENTERS + Community Concerns

- Water Pollution + Consumption
- Air Pollution
- Energy Consumption
- Noise Pollution
- Runoff, Flooding + Non-Point Source Pollution
- Land Loss + Fragmentation of Natural Corridors
- Urban Heat Island Effect
- Unfair economic trade-offs

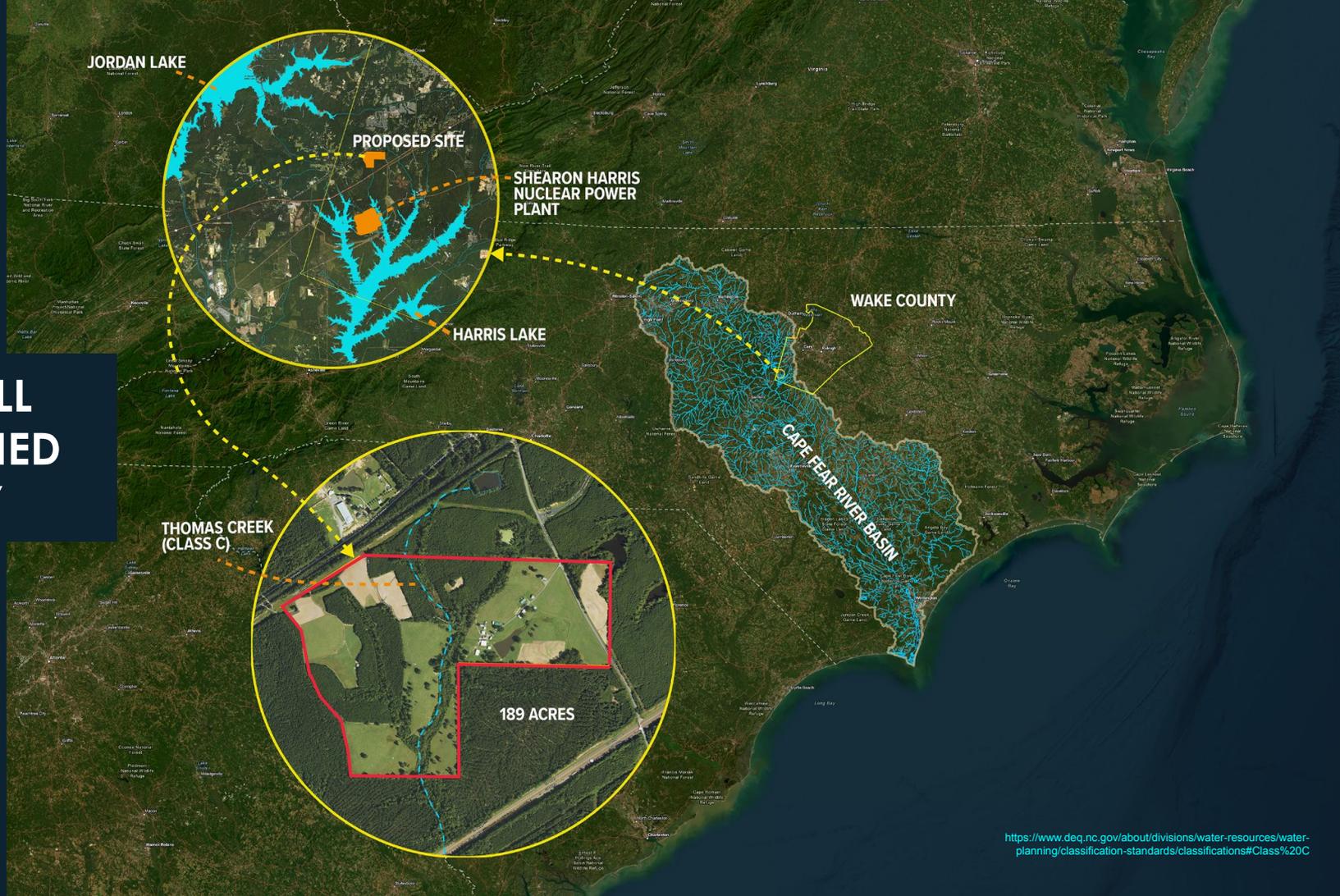




◆ 17 PROPOSED DATA CENTERS
◆ 3 WITHDRAWN PROPOSALS
X 12-MONTH MORATORIUM



NEW HILL WATERSHED STORY



PROGRESS?

Exaggerated tree sizes in these renderings are a tactic used to create an idealized, lush, and finished look that rarely matches the immediate reality of a project.



The property was a farm for over 200 years, in the unincorporated town of New Hill in Wake County

These buildings will stick out like a sore thumb for over a decade!



CURRENT SITE STATUS



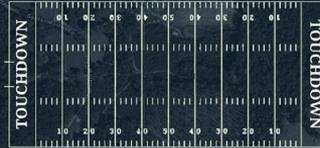
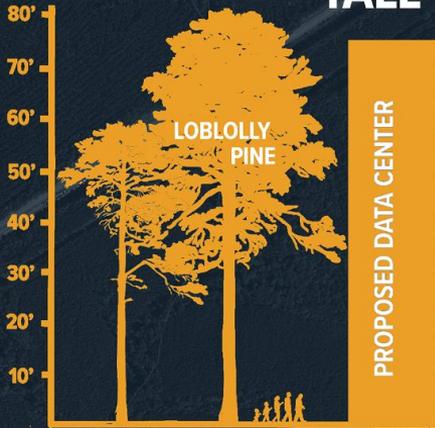
NATELLI HOLDINGS PROPOSAL



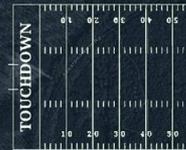
4x 200,000-SQFT BUILDINGS

NEW HILL DATA CENTER DIMENSIONS

75 FT TALL



~ 3.5 FOOTBALL FIELDS



ENERGY HUNGRY AT THE NEW HILL DATA CENTER

The energy requirement for this
300 MegaWatt facility: ~ **200,000**
NC homes running continuously

 = 10,000
Homes

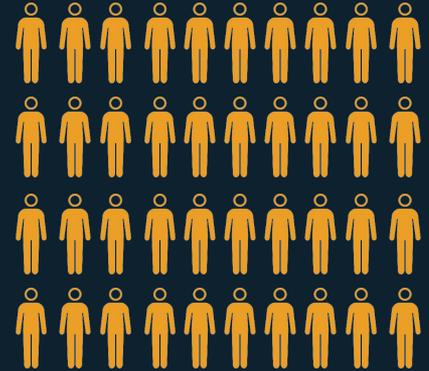


similar to that of a city of
~ **400,000 people**

a city like Minneapolis or Raleigh

~ **1/3 the output** of a nuclear
power plant or a large coal plant
at full capacity

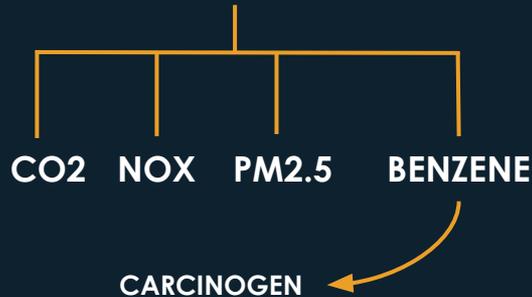
 = 10,000
People



ENERGY HUNGRY AT THE NEW HILL DATA CENTER

AIR QUALITY + HUMAN HEALTH

Running generators for this 300 MegaWatt data center will use **diesel fuel**



Lung Irritation

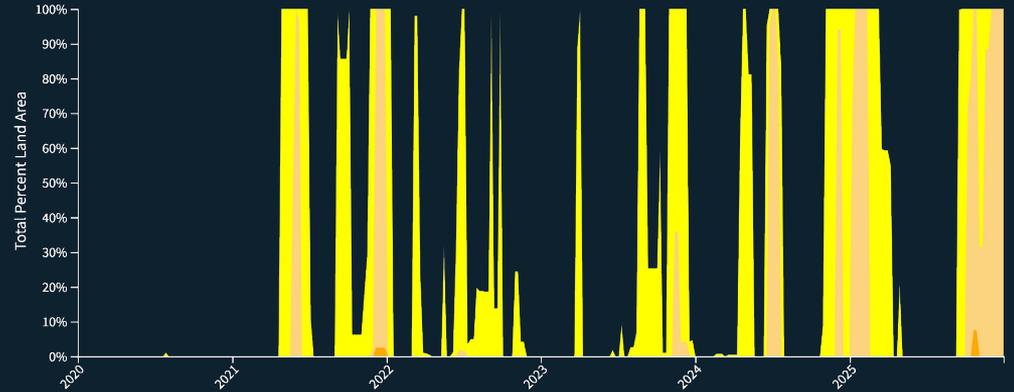
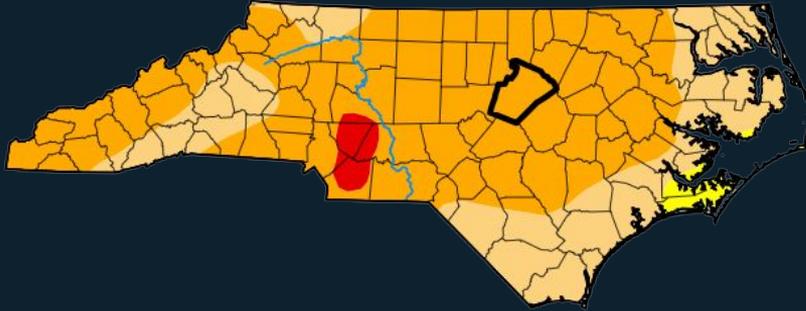
Asthma

Chronic
Obstructive
Pulmonary
Disease
(COPD)

Premature
Death



WATER THIRSTY AT THE NEW HILL DATA CENTER



The average household in Wake County consumes
~ **250 gal/day** of water

Proposed maximum use of **1 million gallons water/day (MGD)**. In reality due to summer weather = a max of **3 MGD of water**

Map released: Thurs. February 12, 2026

Data valid: February 10, 2026 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data



WATER THIRSTY AT THE NEW HILL DATA CENTER

Primary water supply ~ **700,000** residents
in **10** counties + **27** municipalities

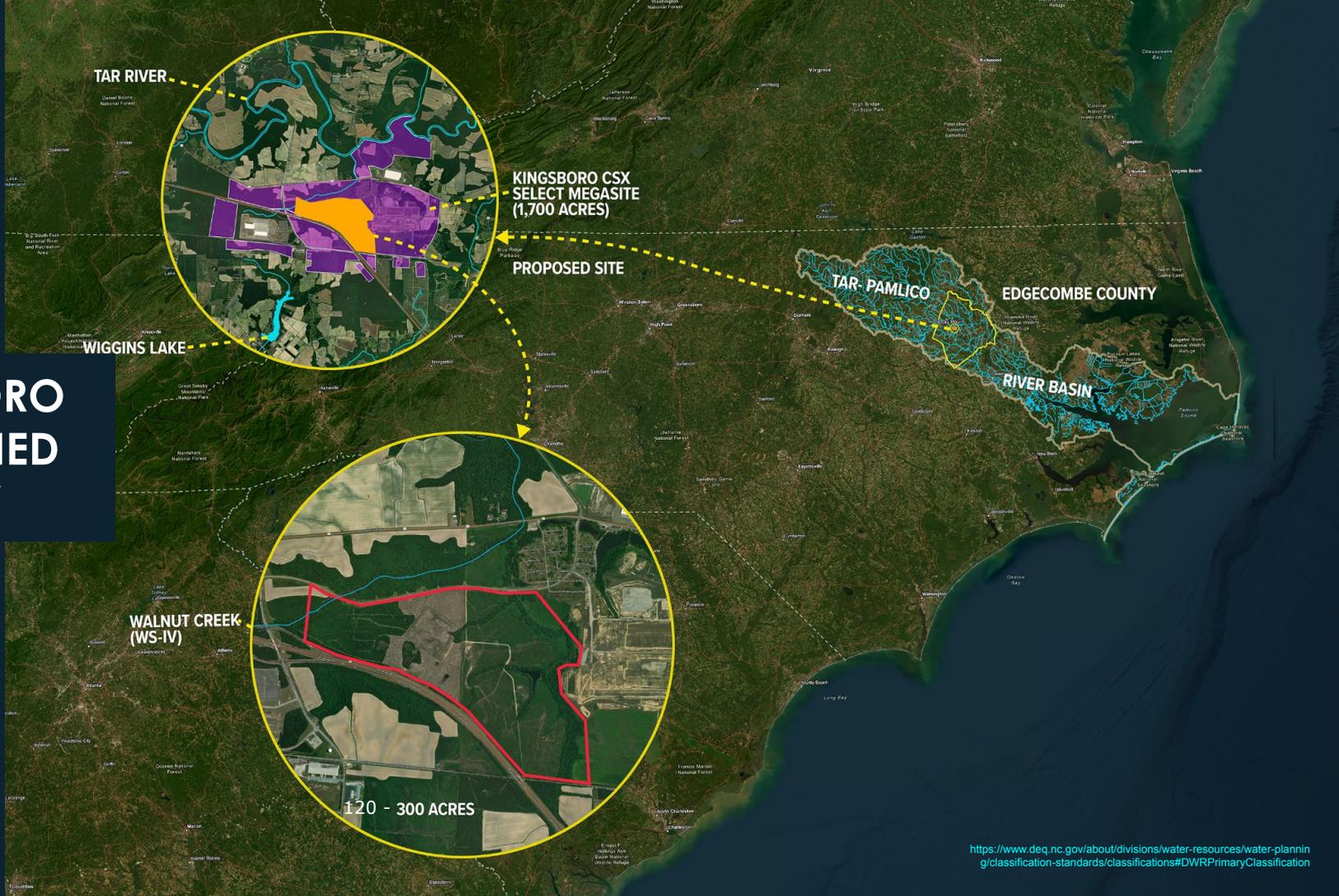
Jordan Lake levels dropped by **6.5 feet**
since August 2025

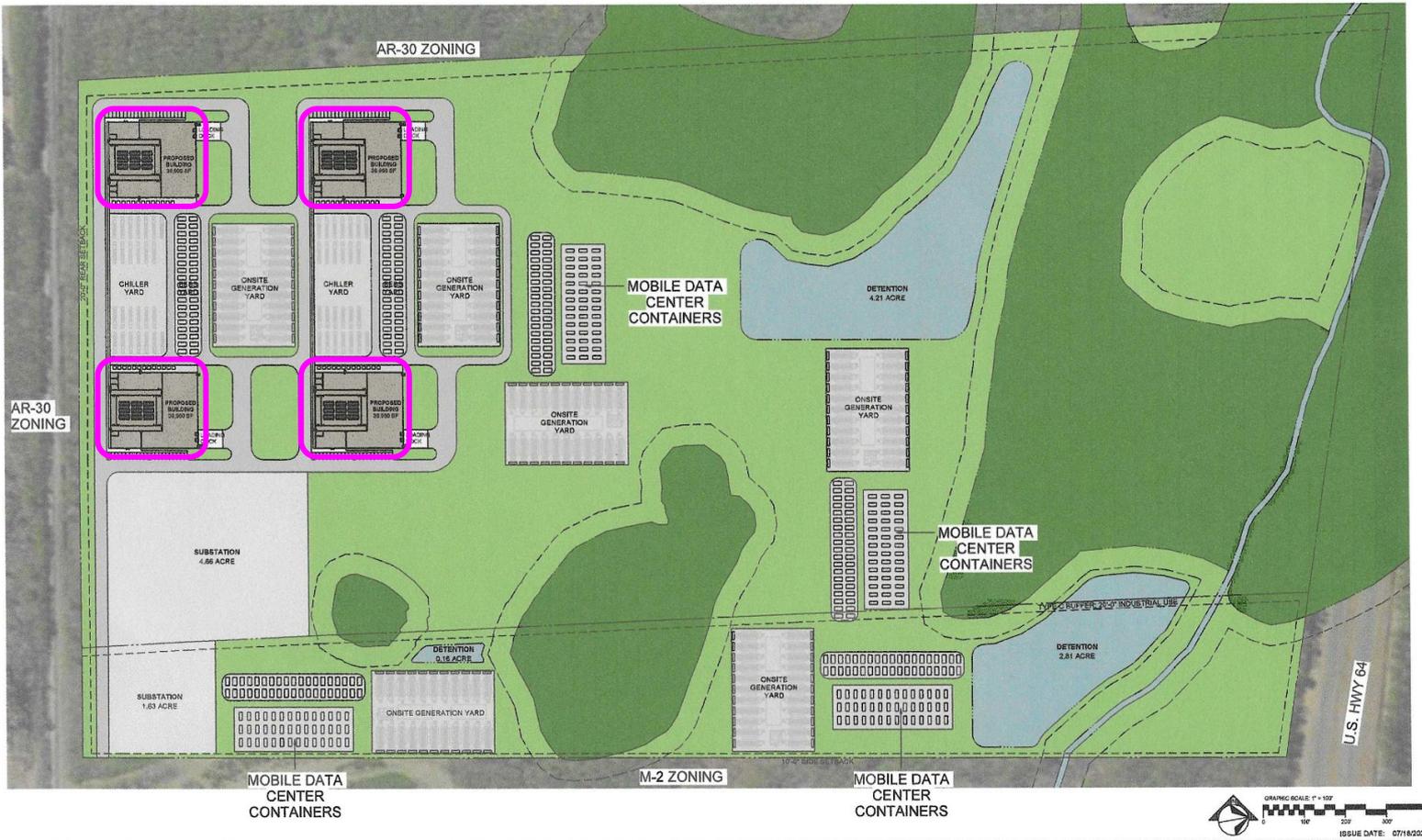
Jordan Lake water supply is **91%**
allocated, (some reports say **100%**) but
this area is experiencing consistent
population growth!

JORDAN LAKE



KINGSBORO WATERSHED STORY





ENERGY HUNGRY AT THE KINGSBORO DATA CENTER

The energy requirement for this
900 MegaWatt facility: ~ **600,000**
NC homes running continuously

similar to that of a city of
~ **800,000 - 1 Million people**

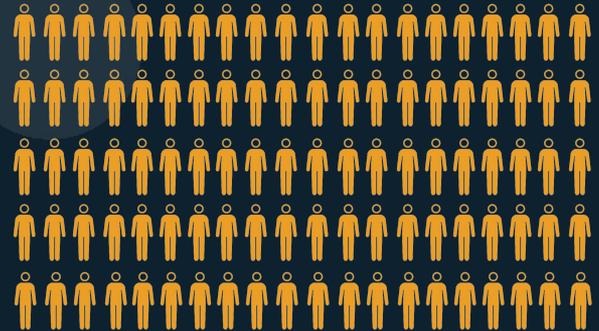
a city like San Francisco or
Charlotte

~**Total, continuous output** of a
single large nuclear reactor or a
major coal-fired power plant

 = 10,000
Homes



 = 10,000
People



ENERGY HUNGRY AT THE KINGSBORO DATA CENTER

AIR QUALITY + HUMAN HEALTH

Running generators for this 900 MegaWatt data center will use **Natural Gas**

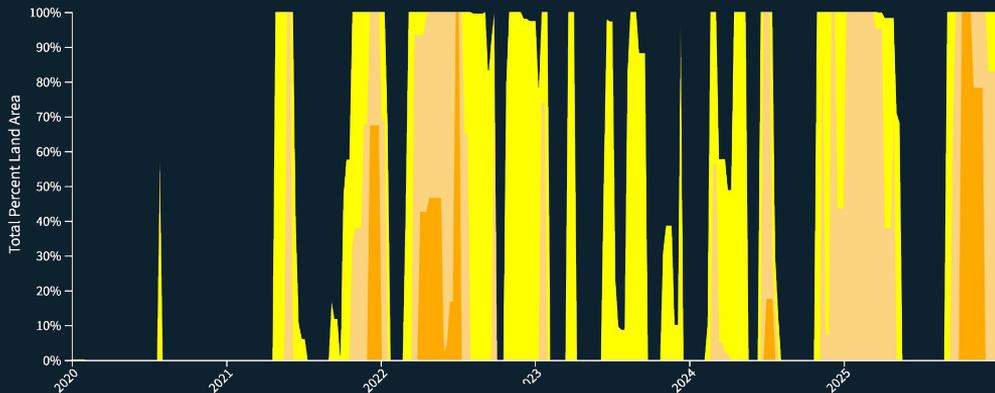
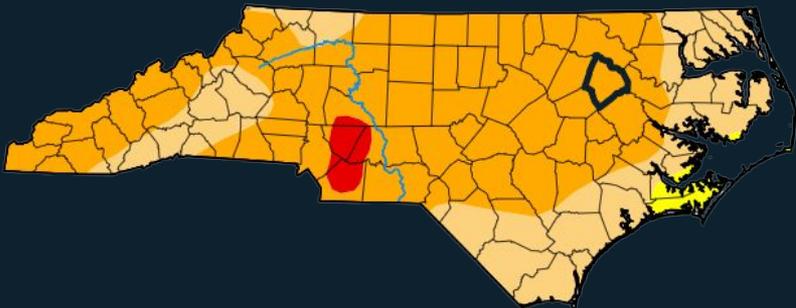


Natural gas turbines use about **2,800 gallons of water** to generate one megawatt-hour of energy, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration

Volatile Organic Compounds (**VOCs**) and Hazardous Air Pollutants (**HAPs**): Including benzene, formaldehyde, toluene, and xylene. Nitrous Oxide (**N₂O**) and Sulfur Dioxide (**SO₂**)



WATER THIRSTY AT THE KINGSBORO DATA CENTER



The average household in Edgecombe County consumes ~ **133 gal/day** of water

City of Rocky Mount uses **1 million gallons/day**

Developer claims **up to 500,000 gallons/day**, but research shows data centers of this scale use **up to 5 million gallons/day**

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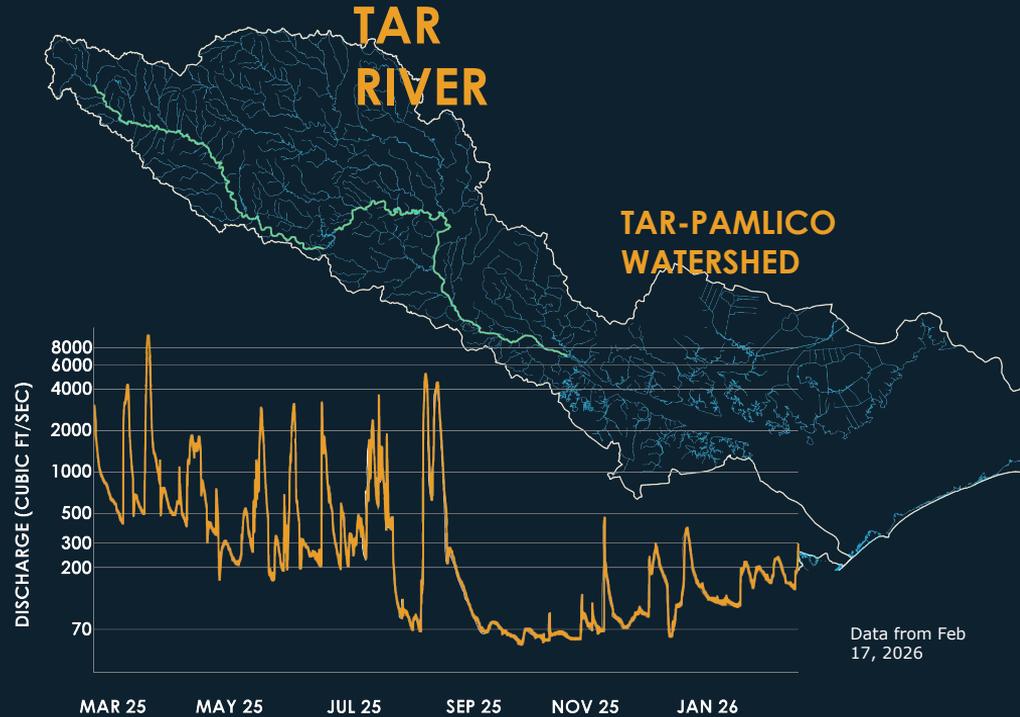
WATER THIRSTY? AT THE KINGSBORO DATA CENTER

The city of Rocky Mount operates **2 Water Treatment Facilities** for Nash + Edgecombe Counties, domestic + industrial customers

Combined permitted capacity of the plants is **26 MGD**
⇒ currently at **39% capacity (10 MGD)**

Agricultural operations pump water from the tar river

The normal or median discharge of the Tar River in Rocky Mount, NC, is **800-900 cubic FT/SEC**



Founded in 1998, the **North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN)** is a grassroots, people of color-led coalition that builds power with systematically marginalized communities to resist climate, environmental, racial, and social injustice.

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