

To Town of Groton Town Council
From: Joan Smith, 37 Island Circle South, Groton, CT
Subject: Data Center proposal, Flanders Road
Date: February 24, 2022

Although I am President of Groton Open Space Association, I am not speaking for the organization. There has not been available enough information for the board to make an informed decision, so I will speak for myself and seek answers to several questions.

Water Quality Protection is a key concern due to the size of the project, underlying bedrock, wetlands, and proximity to Groton's Reservoir System and Fort Hill Brook, flowing into Long Island Sound.

Stormwater Runoff and Pollution: A data center roof and pavement measuring 14 acres would generate approximately 510,000 gallons of stormwater runoff with a 1" rain, according to Steve Trinkaus, GOSA consultant and expert in Low Impact Design. Mr. Trinkaus also indicated a large amount of atmospheric deposition of nitrogen and phosphorus, which, untreated, would contaminate the ground water.

Regrading: This is not a flat site. A massive amount of regrading would be required, and likely a large retaining wall. The bedrock ridge alone could not infiltrate such a large volume of water, without contaminating groundwater resources and nearby wetlands and streams. An extensive engineering plan will be needed to pretreat the stormwater. Most bedrock in the area is full of water, with seeps and fissures, easily visible at highway cuts.

Final Plans: There are questions as to final size, exact location(s), access roads, land disturbance, stormwater drainage, infrastructure connections, noise and heat abatement, water usage, recycling and disposal, generator usage above power outages, battery disposal, remediation of the site whenever the project is terminated.

Historic Resource Protection: There are man-made stone constructions on the site, likely Native American or colonial. The site is located along the Pequot retreat from the Battle of Mystic in 1637. The nearby Sheep Farm, Sheep Farm South and the Wolfebrook property have all produced extensive archaeological findings.

Biological Diversity: A study needs to be performed to evaluate the nearby wetlands, vernal pools, streams, and diverse upland wildlife habitats. This large property is contiguous to Groton's central greenbelt of protected undeveloped properties.