US Data Center Daily Briefing

May 03, 2026

KEY THEMES

- O'Leary Digital Project Stratos 40,000-acre Box Elder County Utah
- Nearly 9GW power plant paired with mega data center campus
- Box Elder County commissioners vote Monday 4 p.m. at fairgrounds
- Closed-loop cooling and "5% emissions" low-carbon operations claim

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A single project in rural Utah is trying to bend the scale curve: O'Leary Digital's "Project Stratos" is pitched as a 40,000-acre mega data center paired with a nearly 9GW power plant in Box Elder County. The developers are promising unusually aggressive environmental safeguards—closed-loop cooling and "low-carbon" operations they claim are just 5% of the emissions of comparable plants—while the county is set to vote on approval at a special public meeting Monday at 4 p.m. The real story isn't the marketing language; it's what a yes (or no) would signal about how far local governments are willing to go to host campus-scale AI infrastructure.

The Big Stories

Developers promise environmental safeguards for 40,000-acre data center — O'Leary Digital has proposed Project Stratos in Box Elder County, Utah: a 40,000-acre development that combines a mega data center with a nearly 9GW power plant. The pitch leans heavily on "low-carbon" claims (5% of the emissions of similar plants), closed-loop cooling, and a community-benefits package that includes AI-literacy programs. A county vote is scheduled for a special meeting Monday at 4 p.m. at the Box Elder County Fairgrounds; developers are talking about roughly 2,000 phase-one jobs, with the potential to triple at full capacity.

Why it matters: this is the kind of proposal that forces permitting bodies to decide whether they're evaluating a data center—or an integrated energy-and-compute megaproject with region-shaping footprint. If Box Elder County signs off, expect other developers to show up with similarly bundled "power + campus + benefits" packages, because it's one of the few ways to make multi-gigawatt aspirations sound locally legible.

Behind the Headlines

No additional distinct stories were included in today's input, so there's nothing else to pull forward here without repeating the same item.

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