US Data Center Daily Briefing

January 05, 2026

KEY THEMES

- US data centre permitting risk rising
- Community opposition over energy and water
- Zoning/land-use constraints delaying projects
- Material capex ($98bn) held up locally
- Hyperscaler spend large but siting constrained

Data centres briefing — Global (UTC 2026-01-05)

Top news (3)

1. **Local opposition is increasingly blocking or delaying large US data centre projects.** The Associated Press reports that developers are losing local fights over energy, water, zoning, and land-use concerns, signalling higher entitlement risk and longer timelines for greenfield builds (see: Communities push back against mega data center proposals nationwide).
2. **Material near-term capex is being held up at the local level.** Data Center Watch counted **20 proposals** across **11 US states** that were **blocked or delayed** between April and June, with a combined value of **$98bn** (see: Communities push back against mega data center proposals nationwide).
3. **Hyperscaler spend remains large, but execution risk is shifting to permitting and community acceptance.** The story cites Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and Facebook with data centre spending expanding into the **"hundreds of billions" globally**, but highlights that siting constraints (energy, water, land-use) can override capital availability (see: Communities push back against mega data center proposals nationwide).

Regional roundup

United States — Development risk / community & permitting

- Communities push back against mega data center proposals nationwide: Residents are opposing mega campus proposals over:

  - **Energy** impacts (implied concern around local power availability and grid strain)
  - **Water** use
  - **Zoning and land-use** changes
- Quantified impact cited:
  - **20 proposals** counted as **blocked or delayed**
  - **$98bn** combined value
  - **11 states** affected
- Named large buyers/developers referenced: **Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Facebook**.

Key deals and projects

- No individual project-level transactions, MW capacities, PPAs, financings, or specific campus details were provided in today's story. The material datapoint is the **aggregate $98bn** of proposals reportedly **blocked or delayed** in the US (see: Communities push back against mega data center proposals nationwide).

Power and grid / interconnection highlights

- The cited pushback explicitly includes **energy-related concerns**, indicating that **power availability and local grid impacts** are becoming central points of friction in community acceptance and local approvals (see: Communities push back against mega data center proposals nationwide).

Policy and regulation

- While no specific new laws or regulatory changes were described, the story underscores that **local zoning, land-use approvals, and permitting processes** are currently key gating items for large-scale data centre deployment in parts of the US (see: Communities push back against mega data center proposals nationwide).

2-line wrap-up

Local opposition is emerging as a decisive constraint on US mega data centre development, with energy, water, and zoning concerns driving delays and cancellations. Even with hyperscalers planning very large spend, timelines and outcomes increasingly depend on local approvals rather than capital availability.

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