US Data Center Daily Briefing

March 01, 2026

KEY THEMES

- Trump revokes 2009 endangerment finding, AI data centres face legal ambiguity
- Ohio EPA OHD000001 data centre wastewater permit sparks PFAS backlash
- DTE Energy seeks new Michigan rate hike after $1.5bn 2025 profit
- Project Jupiter AI-training data centre Santa Teresa urged to face hearing

---

The most consequential shift today isn't a new campus or a power deal — it's policy whiplash. The Trump administration's move to revoke the 2009 "endangerment finding" blows a hole in the federal legal foundation for greenhouse-gas regulation, and that kind of legal ambiguity tends to freeze capital in place. For AI data centres already fighting for power and water, the biggest risk isn't ideology; it's delays, litigation, and a more chaotic permitting backdrop.

The Big Stories

Trump revokes endangerment finding, risks public health and data centres. The White House is calling this the "largest deregulation in American history," but the practical near-term effect for infrastructure investors is uncertainty: if the regulatory basis for emissions rules is pulled out, the next phase is court fights, state-level patchworks, and shifting compliance expectations. The article flags a knock-on risk many in the sector underweight: stressed energy and water systems colliding with AI data centre demand, while climate impacts accelerate in vulnerable regions (it cites the Philippines' typhoon exposure). This isn't a clean "cost down" story — it's a "timeline and risk up" story.

Ohio EPA proposes statewide data center wastewater permit amid backlash. Ohio EPA has drafted a five-year general permit (OHD000001) that would allow eligible data centres to directly discharge certain non-contact cooling water and other low-impact wastewater — while acknowledging it could lower water quality. Environmental groups and a state legislator are pushing back over what they say are missing limits and guardrails (PFAS, heavy metals, thermal, nutrients). The big tell here is institutional: states are trying to standardise approvals to keep projects moving, but the faster they go, the more they invite organised opposition — and that opposition tends to migrate from "local" to "statewide" very quickly.

DTE Energy files another rate hike amid record profits. DTE has filed notice of a new rate increase request with Michigan regulators, after a $242.2m increase was already approved

and set to take effect March 5, 2026 — all while DTE reported $1.5bn in 2025 profits. Michigan's attorney general and conservation groups are pushing a "Ratepayers Bill of Rights," which is the kind of framing that can become politically sticky fast. For data centre operators, the message is blunt: even where grid capacity exists, cost and social permission are becoming constraints — and utilities will be pulled between capital plans, public anger, and large-load negotiations.

Project Jupiter perpetuates environmental racism and cultural appropriation. A New Mexico Environmental Law Center leader argues the proposed AI-training data centre in Santa Teresa would strain local water, power, and air quality — and situates the project in a broader narrative of environmental racism and cultural appropriation. The immediate catalyst is procedural: the public is being urged to push for a public hearing on air quality permit applications by March 2. This matters because "AI training" sites are increasingly judged not just on megawatts, but on who bears the local externalities — and once that frame lands, permitting becomes a values fight, not a technical one.

Behind the Headlines

Letter opposes Google Pine Island data center environmental trade-offs. The striking part of this Pine Island pushback isn't just "locals oppose a data centre" — it's the specific rejection of the standard corporate playbook: market-based emissions accounting and tax abatements. The letter argues that offsets don't address local pollution and points out that the project's power usage is unknown, which is exactly the kind of information gap that breeds distrust and makes rumours do the work of facts. For investors, this is a reminder that the social licence problem isn't abstract: when communities feel the deal is asymmetric (benefits elsewhere, impacts here), they stop arguing about mitigation and start arguing about legitimacy.

Building-to-Building Connectivity in Campus Networks: Technologies & Standards. This is a quietly important undercurrent in the "campus-scale" era: once sites sprawl, the connective tissue becomes a design and cost centre, not an afterthought. The piece runs through ANSI/TIA-758-C guidance and a practical menu of options — singlemode/multimode fiber, copper, wireless, and hybrid composite cabling (including CommScope's FiberREACH) — and then gets into power-over-data constraints and workarounds (PoE distance limits, IP68 PoE extenders, and fault-managed power for longer-distance DC delivery). The point for operators is simple: densification and multi-building layouts shift where complexity lives, and the winners will be the teams that treat inter-building connectivity and distributed power as first-class infrastructure, not miscellaneous cabling.

Track any ISO, state, county, or company in the US data center build-out — Telborg tracks power, permitting, new projects and legislation exclusively from trusted sources

Telborg Pro · $189/mo →

or book a 20-min call →