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December 12, 2025

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
102 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell,

Thank you for your December 11 letter. The University of Michigan appreciates your engagement on behalf of your constituents, and I value your partnership as we work to address concerns and communicate clearly about the status of our high-performance computing facility project in partnership with the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

From the outset, the university has committed to being good neighbors and community citizens and following a careful, transparent, and data-driven process. As we have shared previously, the project remains in the due diligence stage, and no final site selection has been made. We recognize that the absence of definitive technical details has contributed to community uncertainty, and as our evaluations proceed, we are committed to sharing accurate information as soon as it becomes available.

Given the project's current stage and the level of community interest, we agree that a public meeting in Ypsilanti Township is appropriate and necessary. We are in the process of identifying dates in late January and securing an appropriate venue and we will keep your office informed and coordinate with Township leadership to ensure broad public participation.

We also want to directly address the concern that the university has not met with Township officials. Beginning in November 2024, and over the past year, representatives from U-M have held numerous meetings and briefings with the Township supervisor, trustees, and counsel. These discussions have included project updates, environmental considerations, and the Township's stated preference for the American Center for Mobility (ACM) site. While we recognize their perspective, we must complete a full and objective evaluation of all viable locations before making any decision.

In addition, the university hosted a community open house on September 9 to provide baseline information about the scientific mission, differentiate the proposed research facility from commercial data centers and listen to community questions. We understand your concern that this initial meeting was held on North campus rather than in Ypsilanti Township. The purpose of

that event was to inform our university community about the project's research mission, and while it was open to the public, we fully agree that future community-focused discussions should—and will—take place within the Township.

More broadly, we share your view that communities deserve clear, timely and accessible information. The issues you outlined—environmental impacts, first responder capacity, ratepayer impacts and the distinction between commercial data centers and federally supported research facilities—are important and deserve detailed explanation.

To help clarify that distinction: high-performance computing facilities support scientific research and innovation. They enable advances across disciplines, including medicine, climate modeling, energy research, and national security. Commercial data centers, by contrast, store and deliver online content for private-sector platforms. This project is not a commercial development; it is a research collaboration between two public institutions designed to advance scientific discovery.

We also want to emphasize that environmental stewardship remains a core priority for the university. U-M is committed to ensuring that the new facility is developed in a way that protects the environment, supports local infrastructure, and is a net asset to the community. From safeguarding the Huron River to incorporating sustainable design features, every aspect of the project is being carefully planned to align with environmental best practices. To that end, the facility will be designed and operated with safeguards that are outlined below:

- These facilities will not withdraw from, or release water into, the Huron River.
- U-M will pay to use municipal water through the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority. YCUA will manage the water distribution and sanitary discharge.
- All stormwater and wetland impacts will be reviewed and permitted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).
- U-M will work closely with EGLE to ensure protection and restoration of natural resources.
- DTE Energy will construct a new substation to provide reliable power without impacting existing users.
- U-M will incur the costs of DTE's new substation further minimizing financial impact to the township and residents.
- Up to 40% of the building's roof will be built solar ready, laying the groundwork for potential future onsite renewable energy generation.
- The buildings will be fully electric, designed for quiet operation, with minimal emissions due to energy use and no expected odors, smoke, or vibrations affecting residents.
- Construction impacts will be temporary, managed per regulations to minimize disruption.
- The project aims for a minimum of LEED Silver certification, with a stretch goal of Gold, prioritizing energy efficiency and sustainable practices, including use of ENERGY STAR equipment and diversion of construction waste from landfills.
- Dark-sky lighting to reduce light pollution
- Energy-efficient design: 20%+ better than code requirements

If the final site selected is within Ypsilanti Township, security for the project would be provided by U-M's Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS) in coordination with Los Alamos National Laboratory. The site would include an unobtrusive security perimeter and modern fire

suppression systems. Local emergency services would be engaged only when necessary and the state's fire protection grant program that is used statewide is available to provide reimbursement for fire service costs to the Township. The grant provides funds to local communities, on a per square foot basis, to help cover the cost of fire protection for state facilities, including university buildings.

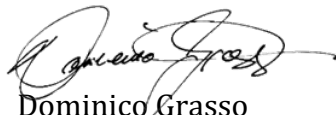
You are correct that communities across Southeast Michigan are facing uncertainty as data center related projects accelerate across the state. This broader context underscores the need for deliberative, evidence-based decision-making. While this project differs significantly from commercial data centers, we recognize that this distinction has not always been clear in public dialogue. We are committed to improving public understanding of this effort and its purpose.

I understand that U-M's Federal Relations Office has also coordinated a meeting between you and Los Alamos National Laboratory leadership early next week. I believe that conversation will help further clarify the mission, requirements and public value of this research partnership.

For your convenience, we have included three brief visual overviews immediately following this letter. These materials outline how the facility would source power, use and manage water, and maintain low noise levels. We hope these graphics help present the information in a clear and easily understandable way.

Thank you again for bringing these concerns forward. I appreciate your constructive engagement and look forward to continued collaboration. Please let us know if you have any additional questions, or if you would like to connect to discuss any of the information provided.

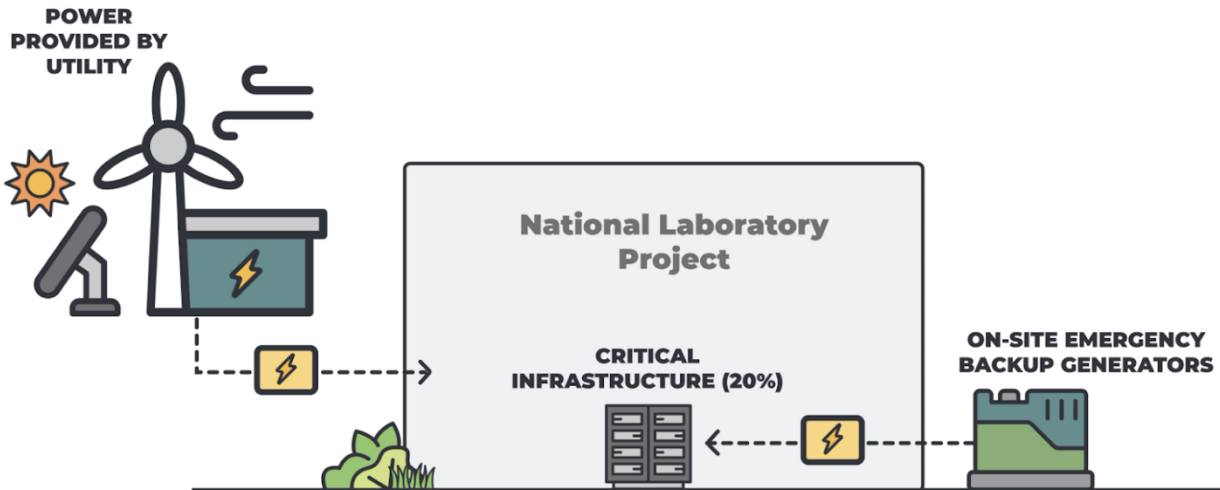
Sincerely,



Dominico Grasso
President

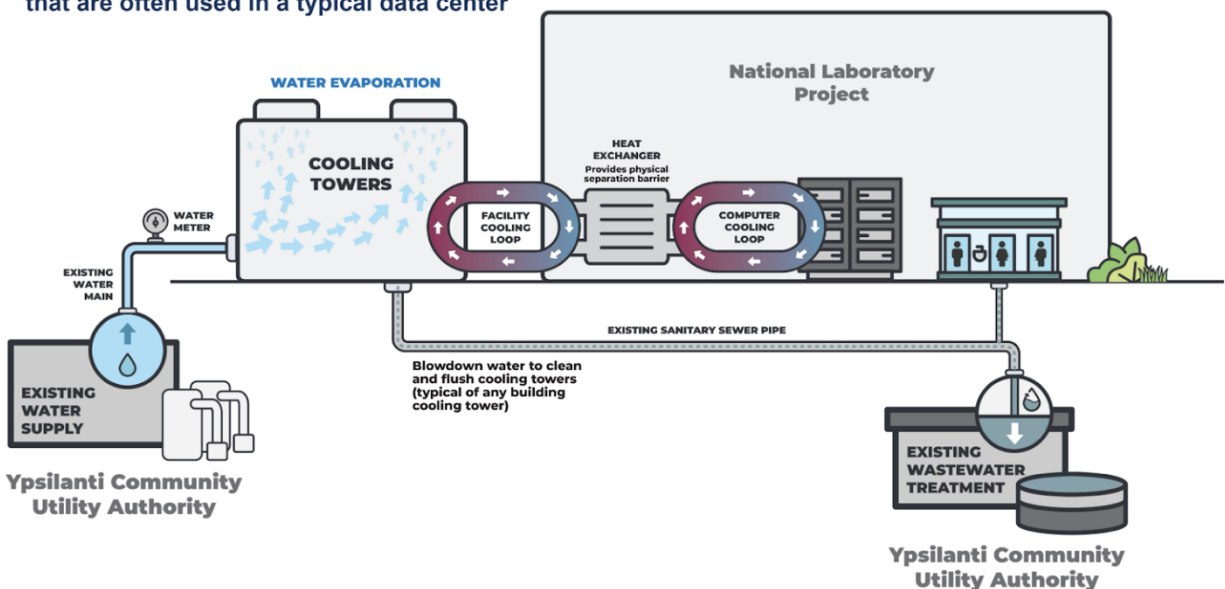
Energy Sources

- Sustainability and thoughtful land use are high priorities for this project
- No impacts are anticipated to the power of adjacent businesses and residences
- A portion of the building's roof will be built solar ready, laying the groundwork for potential future onsite renewable energy generation
- On-site generators are intended for emergency use only during an outage and are limited to 20% of the site's total energy load. They safely ramp equipment down to a stable state to wait for power to come back on, NOT to keep the entire facility running continuously



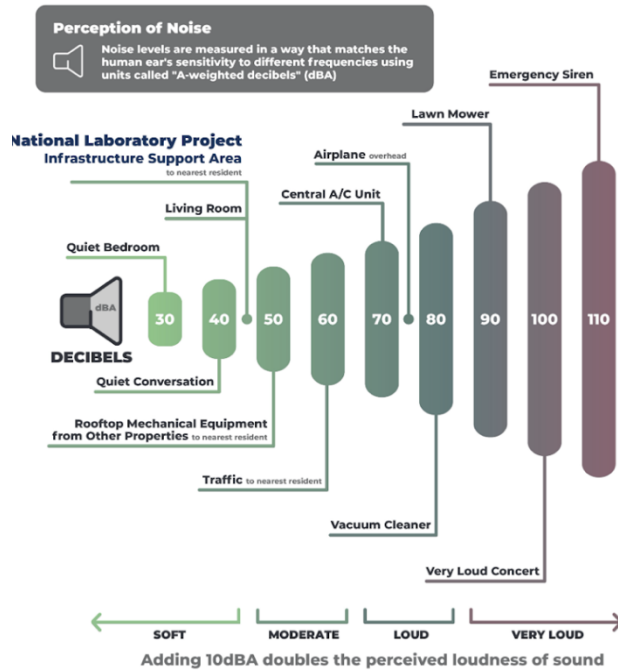
Water Use

- Water will NOT be drawn from nor discharged into the Huron River for facility services (drinking, sinks, toilets) or operations (heating, cooling)
- All water including water used for cooling will be purchased from the Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority (YCUA) - this originates as surface water from the Great Lakes, not drawn from a well/aquifer
- Sanitary discharge will be managed by YCUA
- Direct-to-chip computer cooling (as illustrated below) is 10-15% more efficient than air cooled systems that are often used in a typical data center



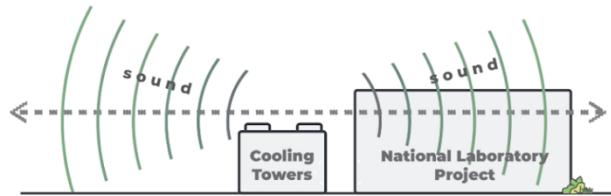
Noise Levels

NOTE: Noise and vibration levels will be similar to those generated by mechanical equipment on U-M's campus such as cooling towers and back-up generators. Analyses are being performed to verify noise levels at all property lines, as well as U-M's assumptions that vibration levels will be undetectable at all property lines.



Noise levels from the facility to a point 800-900 ft away will be similar to living room conversation and less than:

- Rooftop mechanical equipment from typical commercial properties
- Typical roadway traffic



Sources of the chart:
 "Architectural Acoustics," M. David Egan, 1968.
 "Engineering Noise Control, 5th ed," Bies, Hansen, Howard, 2018
 "Decibel Chart: All You Need to Know," mdhearingaid.com