

Subject: Questions about AUAR

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To: cityadmin@cannonfallsmn.gov, info@CannonFallsTechnologyPark.com

Howdy!

FULL DISCLOSURE: I am writing this as an individual with utility and land use experience, and I am not representing any client in this matter, have no dog in the fight.

I'm looking at the "**Alternative Urban Area Review (AUAR)**" for which the Scoping comment period closed April 3rd. DRAT! What's the status now? Is the AUAR being drafted as we speak?

Some things jump out at me in the Scoping document.

1. I don't see any reference to residents in the area and there is no map showing homes within, for example, a mile of the boundaries of the AUAR, and no resident count.

2. Noise - I'm concerned about noise as there's no requirement of noise modeling. The use of the word "mitigation" in the noise sections implies noise exceedences of Minn. R. 7030.0040 standards -- an issue in wind project permitting and operation.

Operational Noise

According to the City's Code of Ordinances, noises emanating from any use shall comply with and be regulated by the State of Minnesota pollution control standards and rules.³⁵ As such, all future development will be required to comply with these requirements. The AUAR will include a discussion of operational noise and identify potential operational noise mitigation measures.

3. I hear a lot of comments about "high energy usage" of Data Center but I've not heard specifics. There's no mention in the Scoping document of MW load for the data center. What is the expected range of load -- average and peak?

4. Does Cannon Falls have a requirement that a "high energy user" generate some/all of its own electricity - i.e., cover the facility and surrounding area with solar and batteries? If not, what will it take to make that happen? A project shouldn't be a drain on the area and it shouldn't be generating additional CO2 via the neighboring gas plant to cover its "high energy use."

I'm remembering the Northfield AUAR with a similar proposal (vague, but "industrial," with data center implied), and I'll take a fresh look at that. Also the Hampton one...

Anyway, I'd appreciate answers to the issues I'd raised above. That's all for now!

Carol

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"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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