



Build a High-Impact Data Center in West Virginia

What Developers Need to Prepare to Begin the State HIDC Certification Process



Prepare to Begin Certification

- Preparing the information listed here in advance helps ensure the statutory review period can begin without delay.
- West Virginia provides a predictable and efficient pathway for qualifying High-Impact Data Centers (HIDCs) to receive state certification.
- Once a complete submission package is received by the West Virginia Department of Commerce, the State will review the project and issue certification within 14 days, consistent with state law.
- The West Virginia Department of Commerce works closely with utilities, infrastructure providers, and project developers to support coordinated planning for power, water, and site readiness.

West Virginia HIDC Certification Timeline

1. Developer determines the project meets the HIDC definition
2. Submission is delivered to the Department of Commerce
3. Commerce confirms the submission is complete
4. The 14-day statutory review period begins
5. The Secretary of Commerce issues HIDC certification



Information to Prepare for Submission

Administrative Information

- Project name
- Project location
- Entity submitting the request
- Primary project contact
- Submission date

Project Eligibility

- Estimated critical IT load (90 MW or greater)
- Expected in-service date
- Description of data center operations

Site Control

- Ownership or lease documentation
- Parcel count and acreage
- Confirmation parcels meet “nearly contiguous” requirements where applicable
- Confirmation the entity has the right to possess, use, and develop the property

Project Description

- Estimated capital investment
- Supporting engineering, financial, or economic documentation
- Estimated project completion date
- Major development milestones

Infrastructure & Utilities

- Power strategy (grid-connected or microgrid)
- Utility power load study request (if grid-connected)
- Estimated electric service delivery timeline
- Estimated average and peak water usage
- Water source (municipal/public or direct withdrawal)
- Withdrawal location if applicable

Environmental & Community Considerations

- Proximity to schools, churches, residences, or businesses
- Proximity to historic sites or landmarks
- Mitigation measures if applicable
- Any unique physical or geological conditions affecting the site

Confidential Business Information

Information identified by a project as confidential business information is protected from disclosure under the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Submitting Your HIDC Submission



**WEST
VIRGINIA**

Economic Development

For assistance preparing your submission or coordinating with utilities, contact:

Chris Morris

Christopher.G.Morris@wv.gov

Director, West Virginia Data Economy Office

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Deliver to:

**Secretary of Commerce
State Capitol Complex**

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 3, Suite 800
Charleston, WV 25305

Delivery methods:

- U.S. Mail
- Courier or delivery service
- Hand delivery

Once the submission is determined to be complete, the statutory review period begins.

#YESWV