



The DeepGreen Cook Inlet Data Center Toolkit

Water, land, and energy should be prioritized for life, not data.

DeepGreen Cook Inlet LLC, a recently registered company out of Delaware, is seeking federal permits to install a [hyperscale data center](#) underwater in the Cook Inlet Forelands region offshore of Nikiski. The DeepGreen underwater data center could have many serious impacts on marine life, local utility ratepayers, and the entire Cook Inlet ecosystem. **The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will accept public comments on DeepGreen's initial permit application until November 2nd.**

Comment Deadline: Monday, November 2, 1 pm AKT

Comment Portal: [FERC Comment Portal](#)

Docket number: P-15423

Note: You must submit your information before commenting. FERC will then send you an email with access to the comment portal—you'll have to enter the docket number (P-15423) to ensure your comment is put on the record for this proposal.

Background

Underwater data centers are a novel concept, and there are none in operation at this scale. To developers, the chief selling point is that the massive amounts of waste heat can be cooled by the surrounding seawater, reducing or eliminating the need for cooling equipment. That waste heat would be absorbed into the ecosystem, risking harm to the entire marine food web- from plankton to fish, to mammals like the endangered Cook Inlet Beluga. DeepGreen proposes to power the 100 MW data center with more than 300 tidal generators. It has not shared any plan for where it would source power during daily slack tides, when the DeepGreen project could draw 100 MW of power from the grid, twice the average peak demand for the entire Kenai Peninsula. The proposed infrastructure includes 66 server hives with exterior copper-nickel cooling fins, raising serious questions about erosion and heavy metal contamination.

Potential Impacts:

- Underwater noise
- Warming water temperature
- Copper pollution
- Habitat fragmentation
- Ratepayer energy burden

Resources

[DeepGreen's Underwater Data Center Project](#)
[Notice of Preliminary Permit Application](#)
[Permit Notice](#)
[FERC Docket P-15423 File List](#)
[The Microsoft Natick Project](#)



Outside profit, local consequences

- **The world needs some data centers to support the technology that we depend on, but underwater in Cook Inlet is the last place we should build them.**
- The proposed DeepGreen data center is another wild idea for an Outside company to get rich off of the lands and waters that Alaskans depend on.
- Alaskans know that hundreds of moving pieces installed underwater in the Inlet will break down, be covered in sea life, and need constant maintenance.
- The waters we depend on for food, jobs, and enjoyment are the wrong place for a huge experiment like the DeepGreen data center.
- DeepGreen couldn't care less about Alaskans or our environment, clearly shown by its lack of a plan to address backup power, maintenance, fisheries impacts, or the potential release of toxic pollutants.
- Outside tech startups like DeepGreen cannot be trusted to conduct objective research that might hurt their bottom line.

The Forelands Bottleneck - a bad place for a data center.

- **A hyperscale data center underwater in the Cook Inlet Forelands area would disrupt fisheries, aquatic life, and ship traffic between Anchorage and the Gulf of Alaska.** The DeepGreen project is proposed in the deepest channel of the Forelands, a natural bottleneck between upper and lower Cook Inlet, just north of the community of Nikiski.
- **Any infrastructure exposed to the Inlet's strong currents would face relentless, year-round abrasion, persistent wear, and ongoing operational risks.** These waters are opaque with fine volcanic ash, sand, and glacial silt; and home to some of the largest tidal ranges in the world. Its powerful currents act like a giant blender, constantly churning up shifting sand and silt from the seafloor and mudflats and keeping heavy sediments in suspension.
- **Cook Inlet experiences frequent earthquakes, which would shake and vibrate sensitive equipment like data center servers,** causing damage and requiring maintenance.
- **The project raises serious questions of long-term reliability and cost.** Its infrastructure is made up of many moving parts and would require frequent maintenance underwater in an area that is difficult to access.

Belugas & Fisheries Impacts

- **The DeepGreen data center would become a significant source of noise**, disorienting marine mammals like beluga whales, who depend on sound to communicate, navigate, hunt, and escape predators. Endangered beluga whales must pass through the Cook Inlet Forelands bottleneck to access their feeding and calving grounds seasonally.
- **NOAA considers noise to be one of the top threats to Cook Inlet beluga recovery.** The noise created by DeepGreen's data center could break beluga whale habitat in two, separating seasonal feeding and calving grounds.
- **Generational Alaskan fisheries are too important to gamble** against huge untested infrastructure projects that provide speculative benefits to our communities.
- **Every salmon that returns to streams North of Nikiski would need to pass through the bottleneck where DeepGreen proposes to install 66 server hives and more than three hundred tidal turbine generators.** There are setnet sites within 3 miles of the proposed data center.
- **The DeepGreen data center would release copper, a well-known toxin**, directly into the habitat of the Cook Inlet salmon population that we depend on for food, jobs, and our identity as Alaskans.
- **Increased water temperatures, especially at slack tide, have the potential to significantly harm salmon and the aquatic ecosystem as a whole.**
- DeepGreen has not named the mechanism they will use to discharge nearly 100 megawatts of waste heat into the water. On land, newer closed-loop systems depend on PFAS (forever chemicals). If PFAS compounds were accidentally released into Cook Inlet, the damage would be permanent.

Power Concerns

- **The number of individual tidal turbine generators proposed to power the DeepGreen data center has never even been considered.** The tidal power startup Ocean Renewable Power Company is developing tidal generators that work in Alaskan waters. They are working on a pilot project to study the impacts and efficacy of five of their generators in Cook Inlet. DeepGreen's proposal to install more than 300 is a huge outlier.
- **HEA ratepayers are likely to foot the bill for the 100mw data center demand during slack tide**, which would *more than double* average peak demand for the entire Kenai Peninsula.
- **It appears that no electric utilities have been consulted.** Neither Homer Electric Association (HEA), Alaska Power Association (APA), or any other potential utility partner.

Similar Projects as Precedent

- **The most successful seafloor data center was built by Microsoft and was less than 1% the size of DeepGreen's proposal.** After two years, Microsoft pulled their project out of the water and has not publicly pursued it further. The infrastructure experienced significant "fouling" i.e. the accumulation of microorganisms, plants, algae, and other small aquatic animals that significantly reduced its performance.