

Brooke T. Paup, *Chairwoman*
Catarina R. Gonzales, *Commissioner*
Tonya R. Miller, *Commissioner*
Steven Schar, *Interim Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

October 19, 2026

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for your letter dated September 21, 2026, directing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to pause the issuance of permits related to data center projects.

Per your request, this letter provides an update on agency activities to comply with your directive. TCEQ has paused the issuance of all permits related to the construction or development of infrastructure directly supporting data centers.

TCEQ staff are screening pending permit applications to determine if they are subject to the directive. If a permit application is subject to the directive, TCEQ has paused that permit application in accordance with your directive. In addition, TCEQ is screening claimed authorizations that do not require the agency to affirmatively issue a permit and, where possible, is suspending such authorizations for data center activities.

TCEQ has met with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to ensure that all agency directives are aligned. We have also provided TCEQ resource tools to other state agencies to obtain real-time data on the status of all pending and issued permits.

TCEQ is committed to handling permits according to your directive and continues to operate in a manner that ensures we protect our state's public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Schar".

Steven Schar
Interim Executive Director