



The DeepGreen Cook Inlet Data Center Toolkit

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

Comment Deadline: Monday November 2, 1pm AKT

Comment Portal: [FERC Comment Portal](#)

Docket number: P-15423

Note: You must submit your information before you comment, 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 Resources

[DeepGreen's Underwater Data Center Project](#)

[DeepGreen Cook Inlet SPV, LLC: Notice of Preliminary Permit Application](#)

[Permit Notice](#)

FERC Docket [P-15423 File List](#)

[The Microsoft Natick Project](#)

Background Summary: DeepGreen Cook Inlet, a recently registered company out of Delaware, is seeking a federal permit to install an underwater [data center](#) in the Forelands region near Nikiski. The project would consume about 2.5 sq. miles of the 10 mile Forelands channel, the narrowest section of Cook Inlet. **Until November 2, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will accept public comments on the data center proposal.**

DeepGreen proposes to power the 100 MW datacenter with over 300 tidal generators. It has not shared any plan for where it would source power during the daily slack tides. Underwater data centers are a novel concept, 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 energy-intensive need to develop cooling equipment. However, in this underwater scenario, that waste heat would be absorbed by Cook Inlet, risking impacts to fish sensitive to warm waters. In addition to the tidal turbines, the proposed infrastructure includes 66 server hives, a network of silt skirts and copper-nickel cooling fins, raising questions about erosion and heavy metal contamination.

Impacts of concern:

- Noise interference with belugas
- Warming water temperature
- Copper pollution
- Habitat fragmentation
- Ratepayer energy burden



Talking Points

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, as shown by its lack of a plan to address backup power, maintenance, fisheries impacts, or the potential release of toxic pollutants like PFAS or copper.
- The race to build and profit from data center infrastructure attracts speculative proposals like DeepGreen's, which focus on profit, not safety.
- Outside tech startups like DeepGreen cannot be trusted to conduct objective research that might hurt their bottom line.

The Forelands Pinch-Point - a bad place for a data center.

- The DeepGreen project is proposed in the deepest channel of the Forelands, just north of the community of Nikiski, a bottleneck between upper and lower Cook Inlet. It poses the possibility to disrupt fisheries, aquatic life, and ship traffic between Anchorage and the Gulf of Alaska.
- Cook Inlet water is opaque with fine volcanic ash, sand, and glacial silt; in addition it experiences 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. Any infrastructure exposed to its strong currents would face relentless, year-round abrasion, persistent wear, and ongoing operational risks.
- Its infrastructure, made up of significant moving parts, would require constant, difficult to access, maintenance, creating serious uncertainty about long-term reliability and cost.

- Cook Inlet experiences frequent earthquakes, which would shake and vibrate sensitive equipment like data center servers, causing damage and requiring maintenance.

Belugas & Fisheries Impacts

- Endangered beluga whales must pass through the Cook Inlet Forelands bottleneck to access their feeding and calving grounds seasonally. The DeepGreen data center would become a **significant source of noise**, disorienting marine mammals like the beluga whales, who depend on quiet waterways to communicate, navigate, hunt, and escape predators.
- 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 with 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 been attempted.
- The tidal power startup Ocean Renewable Power Company has created proven tidal generators that work in Alaskan waters. They are developing a pilot project to study the impacts and efficacy of five of their generators in Cook Inlet. DeepGreen proposes installing more than 300.
- Without any suggestion of a backup power source to power DeepGreen's project, HEA ratepayers are likely to foot the bill for the 100mw data center demand during slack tide, which would more than double peak demand.
- It appears that no energy stakeholders have been consulted: Homer Electric Association (HEA), Alaska Power Association (APA), or others.

Similar Projects as Precedent

- The most successful seafloor data center was built by Microsoft and is 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.