



Action Alert

Upper Mount Bethel Data Center

Monday, August 24 at 7 pm the Upper Mount Bethel Board of Supervisors will once again be talking about the proposed Slate Belt Holding Data Center and the Agreement the company wants the Supervisors to sign that will give Slate Belt priority power in developing a data center ordinance that would apply to their project.

The meeting will be held at the Mt. Bethel Fire House, 2341 N. Delaware Dr., Mt. Bethel, PA.

Points For Consideration Regarding the Slate Belt Holdings Data Center & MOU Special Supervisors Meeting August 24, 2026

The Supervisors should prioritize development of a strong data center ordinance. Data Centers are proliferating at an unprecedented pace. We do not know what will happen with the current Slate Belt proposal, or what data centers may be waiting in the wings. It is important that a strong ordinance, written through the regular process dictated by our Township ordinance, is put in place so that we have the ordinance protections we need whenever any data center application is filed.

The MOU gives Slate Belt a priority seat at the ordinance drafting table. Slate Belt should not be given any special and preferential status in the drafting any data center ordinance for our township. They are not more important than the people of our town and will be sure to only agree to an ordinance that is self-serving and has their best interests as priority.

There is a process in Upper Mount Bethel's Ordinances that will determine where a data center is allowed under current ordinance. That process, in which the people and the supervisors can have a voice, should play out. Signing the MOU takes away the voice of our community.

- Note - the Slate Belt July 22, 2026 legal filing actually requests that this process be initiated by the Zoning Hearing Board. That is what our Supervisors should be focused on. Ensuring the Use Determination decision complies with the law and provides the right legal outcome. That outcome should be a decision on where current ordinance allows a data center to be located, and should require they meet all applicable standards.

The validity challenge filing should be opposed by our Supervisors as not legally ripe, and therefore not legally viable. You should not allow Slate Belt Holdings to use it as a threat to

wipe away our rights and our ability to develop an ordinance that we think is best for our community, rather than one that is best for the industry.

The backroom discussions and dealmaking between Slate Belt Holdings and our Supervisors that keeps dribbling out with each meeting and on social media is a set of unenforceable empty promises that should in no way be relied upon as a driver for what to expect from Slate Belt Holdings.

- The Supervisors should NOT have been entertaining these closed-door, secret meetings in the first place.
- And you should not now be using them to convince our community to give up our right to the Zoning Use Determination Process and the drafting of a future data ordinance in which we have a full and fair say.

Slate Belt Holdings clearly has a reason they are trying to bully our Supervisors into a lopsided MOU that gives Slate Belt Holdings immense power in the crafting of a data center ordinance. They surely see something in our existing ordinances they don't like.

The ordinances we have on the books have some very strong provisions regarding noise, light and vibration, among other provisions, that Slate Belt Holdings will, at a minimum, have to meet. They are protections that Slate Belt Holdings knows will be a challenge for them. And they are protections they will most certainly require be wiped away in any ordinance they would agree to if the MOU is signed.

- These existing provisions provide important protections from some of the biggest harms communities experience when a data center comes to town – noise, light, vibration.
- They are provisions that can help drive better protections – for example, meeting the noise requirement might require bigger buffers than our current ordinance requires.
- And maintaining our right to negotiate regarding taxes and other issues can also be used to drive a less impactful project if one were to advance.

Signing this MOU that will wipe away existing ordinance provisions that are protective, and agreeing to a process that will only result in protections Slate Belt Holdings likes which will surely be weaker than we want or need, and that will most certainly accommodate the project Slate Belt Holdings already has in mind, is a bad decision – especially when Supervisors use the unenforceable promises Slate Belt Holdings has made behind closed doors as the excuse to sign.

This MOU obligates our community to an ordinance process where Slate Belt has more power and higher standing than we the people, that essentially gives the company veto authority over any provision they don't like, that requires us to agree to construction of a data center as a right, that seeks to provide tax breaks that will impact our community in order to feed company's bottom line, and that promises a hefty set of donations without any indication of how much money we get when, and only promises the full amount if the company succeeds in maximizing the footprint it will inflict on our community.

The Township has some real strength and power in this process, and the obligation to represent the people of this town. Stop acting like Slate Belt holds all the cards. They don't.