

XAI MYTH vs. FACT

MYTH	FACT
Local, state, and federal health regulators have played an active role in xAI's planning process.	When approached for details about xAI's use of polluting methane gas turbines in July of 2024—after xAI had already installed 18 turbines—SCHD responded that it had no written records. Moreover, none of these agencies, especially SCHD which is the front-line regulator, have been transparent about the turbines and none have provided a legal basis for their operation without a permit.
XAI's is planning to build a wastewater recycling facility, so community members shouldn't worry about air pollution.	It may be good that xAI plans to build a water reuse facility, but that doesn't give the company a free pass to pollute Memphians' air. Additionally, xAI has not committed to using recycled water for its second, larger data center on Tulane Road in Whitehaven.
XAI has brought in hundreds of battery storage units that will prevent blackouts with Memphis' electrical grid.	XAI's battery packs likely won't benefit anybody other than xAI. The batteries ensure that the data center can continue to operate if there are power outages. But xAI hasn't explained how these battery packs might help families or local businesses when the lights go out.
XAI only installed methane gas turbines to ensure that MLGW customers were not impacted by the untested power needs of the supercomputer.	XAI's polluting methane gas turbines are being used to power the facility because it has not been approved to get its desired power from the MLGW grid. The turbines emit smog-forming pollution and hazardous chemicals like formaldehyde. These pollutants are tied to increased rates of asthma, respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and even cancers.
XAI is contributing significant tax dollars to Memphis, so pollution concerns don't matter.	What good is tax revenue if Memphians are forced to deal with polluted air and increased health problems? Additionally, even Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris has questioned xAI's commitment to consistently paying taxes, telling a reporter "It is just what companies say in my experience. They say that and then they end up not paying taxes."

<p>XAI's methane gas turbines have been removed from the site, and the company didn't need permits for ones that were there for less than a year.</p>	<p>Some turbines may have been removed, but many still remain and are still running. These turbines emit smog-forming polluting and hazardous chemicals like formaldehyde.</p> <p>These turbines needed a permit from day one. There is no "364 day" loophole and the Chamber of Commerce has never been able to point to an exception that would apply to turbines the size of those running at xAI's data center.</p>
<p>Permits have been submitted for 15 methane gas turbines that will serve as a backup power source for xAI,</p>	<p>In its permit application, xAI itself says these will not be used as backup power. Instead, they will be used to provide additional power to the facility. As proposed, the permit would allow them to run 24/7.</p>
<p>XAI's methane gas turbines are equipped with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology that lowers emissions far below what the EPA requires.</p>	<p>This is not true. None of the 35 turbines installed at the xAI data center currently have SCR technology that reduces pollution. In fact, in a webinar hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, a representative from xAI said the turbines would have to be "retrofitted" with pollution controls. SCHED has also stated that the turbines will not be required to install the control technology until September.</p>
<p>XAI won't use methane gas turbines at its Tulane Road location.</p>	<p>Neither xAI nor the Chamber of Commerce has disclosed how the Tulane Road data center in Whitehaven will be powered, despite growing concerns and frequent questions from the community. We do know, however, that xAI has explored installing up to 90 polluting gas turbines to provide electricity to the facility.</p> <p>It's also been reported that xAI could be building a massive gas turbine installation in Southaven, Miss., just a mile from the Tulane Road site and close to homes and schools. Air pollution doesn't stop at the state line, and turbines built in Southaven will pollute Memphians' air, too.</p>
<p>No public, taxpayer-funded incentives or zoning changes were requested or required for this project, so xAI doesn't need to be transparent about its projects or pollution impacts.</p>	<p>This isn't an excuse to hide information from the public or for local leaders to sign non-disclosure agreements that prevent them from sharing information about the data center. Memphians deserve honesty, transparency, and openness.</p>