
County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

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NEWS RELEASE

May 7, 2026

Land Use Bylaw Text Amendment Regarding Data Processing Facilities

County of Wetaskiwin, AB — The County of Wetaskiwin has approved a Land Use Bylaw (LUB) text amendment to establish a clear and structured framework for the potential development of data processing facilities (data centres) within the County.

The amendment was initiated following an application from an external proponent seeking to enable this type of development within the County. In response, Council undertook a comprehensive review process, including a Public Hearing held on April 7, 2026.

Following the Public Hearing, Council directed Administration to revise the proposed amendment to better reflect public input, planning best practices, and Council considerations. The final version approved by Council incorporates a number of changes specifically aimed at addressing potential impacts and ensuring responsible development.

Key updates to the bylaw include:

- Establishing separate definitions and regulations for minor and major data processing facilities, based on size. Both facility types are discretionary uses in the Land Use Bylaw.
- Smaller-scale facilities (under 1280 square feet) may be located in agricultural or industrial districts, while larger developments are required to be located in Industrial districts, subject to review and approval.
- Strengthening language within the bylaw to ensure that impact mitigation requirements are clearly defined and enforceable.
- Expanding evaluation criteria to include environmental considerations and proximity to sensitive uses.

The bylaw requires applicants to provide technical studies to evaluate potential impacts to the surrounding area. All developments must be designed to mitigate off-site impacts such as noise, lighting, traffic and vibration to the satisfaction of the Development Authority.

Additional provisions address setbacks and regulatory requirements for facilities that include on-site power generation, ensuring alignment with provincial regulations and oversight where applicable.

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“With these amendments, Council has given administration the tools they need to ensure development happens in a measured way and reduces conflicts with adjacent land uses,” said Reeve Josh Bishop. “Providing developers with clear requirements and expectations upfront will allow for proper planning before making a final investment decision.”

This amendment does not approve any specific development. Any future proposal for a data processing facility will be subject to a detailed application review process, including technical studies, and alignment with County policy.

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