

Federal AI project expected to bring economic growth

Local leaders believe DOE site initiative will lead to job creation and investment

BY BEN OVERBY
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Paducah and McCracken County officials are anticipating future economic growth after the U.S. Department of Energy Paducah Site was chosen for a federal artificial intelligence data center project.



DOE Site since he took office seven years ago.

“We have announced, city and county, that we are nuclear friendly,” Clymer said. “We want to be aggressive in promoting our site here for futuristic clean energy. Artificial intelligence is the future. They’re huge power consumers. We want to build that infrastructure.”



Clymer said the next step in the project will involve the DOE sending out requests for proposals to AI and power generation companies in the private sector. He anticipates the process will be completed within a year and wants the community to have input on the decision.

The judge executive said he believes the project will create a significant number of high paying technical jobs, as well as construction jobs to aid in building the necessary infrastructure. Local leaders said they will not know how many jobs the project will create until the project is further along in its development. Paducah Mayor George Bray said the nature of AI further complicates the numbers.

"We're unclear as to



File photo

A Feb. 23, 2024, photo shows the sign for the Department of Energy site in Paducah. The site is one of four chosen for AI data centers and energy generation projects.

how many jobs at this point, because AI infrastructure projects are a lot like Bitcoin projects. They're basically a lot of computers in a big building, and people have to take care of the computers," Bray said. "It's not like your traditional manufacturing site where there's hundreds or thousands of jobs to make cars or steel or something like that. So, we're still trying to understand that."

Bray said while several projects have been pursued in recent years to revive the Paducah site — including Global Laser Enrichment's plans to create a first-of-its-kind facility to re-enrich the depleted uranium at the site to fuel nuclear power plants and reactors — the AI infrastructure project has

largely evolved in 2025. He believes the rapid progression is the result of the federal government wanting to make sure the U.S. is not left behind other nations in AI development.

"It's happened very quickly," Bray said. "In my impression, the U.S. government has made the decision that we are not going to be left behind in AI. We're in an international race with other countries, most likely China. So, the government has come in and they have reduced the decision-making time frame for getting these things done because of the importance of AI."

Bray said being chosen for this facility is a validation of all the work that has been put into revitalizing the DOE

Paducah Site and a positive for the city's brand nationwide. He said he's aware that some people may be skeptical or have concerns about the data center, but he believes AI is an unavoidable part of the future that should be embraced, especially because of the opportunities it creates.

"The bottom line is artificial intelligence, I can tell you from personal knowledge, is coming like a freight train, and it is not getting out of the way for anybody," Bray said. "The United States government has chosen Paducah as a site, and we as leadership in that community are embracing that selection. I acknowledge that people are going to have concerns, and I understand those concerns, but artificial intelligence is

here.”

Clymer said the process of the Paducah site being chosen has included the cooperation of many legislators from Kentucky, including U.S. Sens. Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell and Rep. James Comer. McConnell released a statement in support of the decision on Thursday.

"This is great news for the Paducah community, and I want to thank President Trump for selecting the Paducah Site to host new AI infrastructure," McConnell said. "The site at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant has long held a critical role in advancing U.S. national security, and is poised, yet again, to be a national leader in an emerging and important technology."

JOINS

FROM **PAGE B2**

Sterling was named to five Pro Bowls and earned first-team All-Pro honors the three years he led the league in receptions. He averaged 85 catches in his career — an unheard of number for that era and 10 more than Jerry Rice averaged in his first seven seasons.

In his last season he led the league with 18 touchdown receptions, including a trio of scores in his final game despite dealing with numbness in his arms and tingling in his neck caused by an abnormal loosening of the first and second vertebrae in his cervical spine.

He had felt increasingly bothersome symptoms over the last half of



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2 lb.	4 lb.	T-Bone Steaks
2 lb.	4 lb.	New York Strip Steaks
2.5 lb.	5 lb.	Boneless Top Sirloin Steaks
8 lb.	16 lb.	Boneless Pork Chops
6 lb.	12 lb.	Center Cut Pork Chops
10 lb.	20 lb.	Mixed Cut Chops
12 lb.	24 lb.	First Cut Pork Chops
5 lb.	10 lb.	Ozark Pride Ham
8 lb.	16 lb.	Boneless Pork Loin Roast
9 lb.	18 lb.	Pork Steak or Pork Roast
9 lb.	18 lb.	Pork Cutlets or Pork Patties
10 lb.	20 lb.	Country Style Ribs
4.5 lb.	9 lb.	Platter Sliced Bacon
7.5 lb.	15 lb.	Pork Sausage
2.5 lb.	5 lb.	Minute Steaks
10 lb.	20 lb.	Whole Fryers or 8-pc Cut-Up Fryers
20 lb.	40 lb.	Chicken Leg Quarters (4 Pk)
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