

Excerpt: The Role of Natural Gas in Google's Data Center Expansion

Cleanview | April 2, 2026



*This is an excerpt of Cleanview's [comprehensive report](#) on Google's data center power strategy. It describes a part of Google's much larger power strategy that includes large investments in solar, wind, batteries, geothermal, hydro, nuclear, and other clean energy technologies. **You can purchase the full report and dataset [here](#).***

Prior to 2025, natural gas power had no visible role in Google's data center strategy. Over the past year, that picture has become more complicated.

In October 2025, Google announced a first-of-its-kind offtake agreement for a 400 MW natural gas plant with carbon capture in Decatur, Illinois. Documents obtained by the Flatwater Free Press in early 2026 suggest Google is “considering building a data center in Nebraska” that could be powered by as much as 1,000-3,000 MW of natural gas power with CCS. And in Armstrong County, Texas, Crusoe Energy is building a 933 MW unabated natural gas plant at a data center campus known as 'Goodnight' — the same site where Google announced it would build a new data center campus in November 2025.

Together, these projects illustrate the growing role of natural gas power in the data center infrastructure being built to serve Google, a dimension of the company's expansion that sits alongside its better-known investments in solar, wind, nuclear, and battery storage.

Crusoe "Goodnight" Campus — Armstrong County, Texas

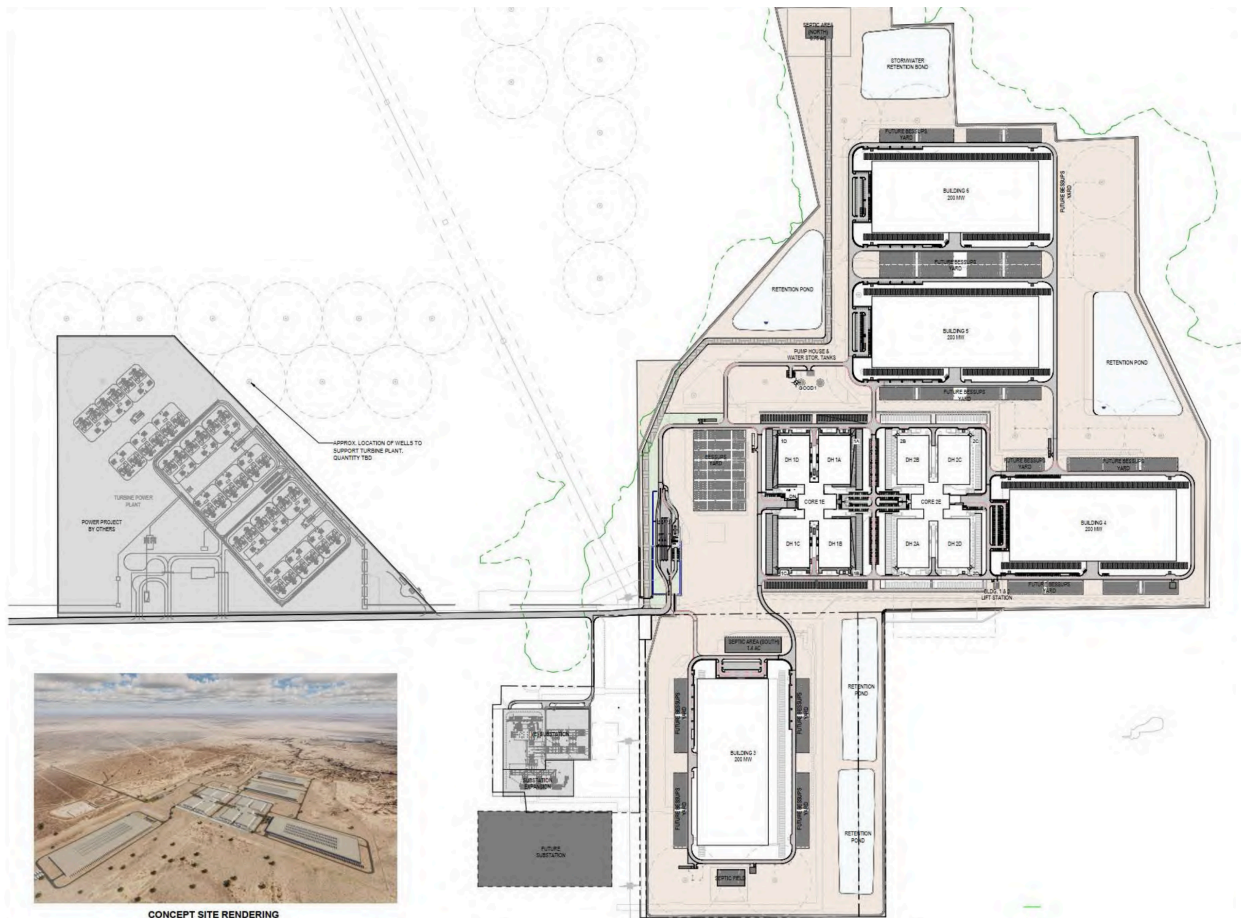
In November 2025, Google announced its plans to invest \$40 billion in Texas data centers. The company said that investment would fund new data center campuses in Armstrong County and Haskell County. In Armstrong County, Google confirmed to Cleanview that it has partnered with Crusoe Energy to develop a campus known as 'Goodnight,' near the town of Claude.

In January 2026, Crusoe filed a permit to build a 933 MW natural gas power plant onsite at the Goodnight campus. Documents obtained by Cleanview show that the gas plant would power two buildings on the campus and would not connect to the power grid. The gas turbines could emit as much as 4.5 million tons of CO₂ per year. Cleanview commissioned high-resolution satellite imagery and confirmed the two buildings that would receive power from the gas plant are under construction.

When we reached out for comment, Google confirmed it has partnered with Crusoe to build the Goodnight campus. A Google spokesperson said the company hasn't signed an offtake agreement with Crusoe for the natural gas plant.

Someone familiar with the partnership between the two companies described the negotiations as ongoing and said the amount of power Google would use from the gas plant is still to be determined.

- **Power source:**
 - ~933 MW onsite gas power plant
 - ~265 MW wind from Goodnight Wind 1
 - ~519 MW backup diesel
 - ~1 GW battery storage (estimated)
- **Data center nameplate capacity:** ~1,030 MW;
- **Turbines:** 20x GE Vernova LM6000 (13 packaged by ProEnergy; 7 packaged by Dynamis Power Solutions)
- **Developer:** Crusoe Energy
- **Status:** Under construction
- **Timeline:**
 - **August 2024** — Crusoe submits tax abatement documents to Armstrong County with original Stargate building designs
 - **May 2025** — Construction begins, according to local news reports.
 - **November 2025** — Google announces it is building a data center in Armstrong County. Local news reports it is the same data center that Crusoe already began construction on.
 - **January 2026** — Crusoe submits TCEQ permit with plans to build 933 MW of unabated natural gas generation capacity. Crusoe also submits a PUCT application for a net-metering arrangement with Goodnight Wind 1.
 - **2027** — Phase 1 expected to be complete



Site renderings included in the Clean Air Permit filing (page 36).

On-site gas plant. The campus will be powered, in part, by 20 GE Vernova LM6000 aeroderivative turbines with a combined rated capacity of 933 MW, according to [a permit application](#) filed with Texas regulators on January 30, 2026. Notably, the turbines are not being purchased as finished units from GE Vernova — they are sourced through two third-party packagers:

- **13x ProEnergy Model 6000 (PE6000):** Described in the permit's BACT analysis as "based on the General Electric LM6000 turbine but manufactured by ProEnergy."
- **7x Dynamis Aero DT46:** Described as "based on the General Electric LM6000 turbine but manufactured by Dynamis Power Solutions."

Islanded design and grid independence. The campus includes 173 Caterpillar 3516 diesel backup generators (519 MW) and 10 dedicated diesel "Black Start"

generators enabling entirely grid-independent cold start. The permit reveals a split power architecture:

- **Buildings 1–4** are powered by the traditional utility grid, with diesel generators as backup.
- **Buildings 5–6** are entirely islanded, powered exclusively by the on-site gas turbine plant.
- The gas turbines also provide backup to Building 4 "to reduce the load on the utility grid" — suggesting the local utility cannot supply the full capacity required for the complete campus.

Continuous full-load operation. According to the permit: *"Due to the power needs of the Facility, the turbines are intending to operate at full load at all times. In the event that less power is needed... a turbine(s) will be taken offline rather than running turbines at a lower load."*

Grid territory. Though located in Texas, the Goodnight campus sits within the **Southwest Power Pool (SPP)** territory rather than ERCOT. Given the islanded design and Black Start capability, the project operates with a high degree of grid independence regardless.

Satellite images. Cleanview commissioned satellite images on February 24, 2026 to check the status of the data center. As you can see in the image below, the first two buildings have already been constructed. Four more buildings—including Building 5 and 6, which would be powered by the onsite gas plant—are under construction. The natural gas turbines don't appear to be onsite yet.



Download the very high resolution file [here](#) to zoom in on specific features.

Proposed CCS Gas Plant — Southeast Nebraska

- **Data center capacity:** 1,000–3,000 MW
- **Turbine models and OEM:** Not disclosed
- **Developer:** Tenaska (power plant); Tallgrass Energy (named as potential gas supplier and CO₂ transporter)
- **Timeline:** Proposed online date of 2029
- **Status:** Unconfirmed by Google; disclosed through documents obtained by the Flatwater Free Press

In March 2026, the [Flatwater Free Press](#) reported on a proposal — outlined in documents shared at a private Nebraska public power district meeting in January — in which Google, Omaha-based energy developer Tenaska, and pipeline company Tallgrass Energy would collaborate on a massive data center and gas power plant in southeast Nebraska.

Scale. If built as described, the project would be among the largest data centers in the United States, requiring **1,000 to 3,000 MW** of power — more than three times the peak summer demand across Lincoln Electric System's entire service area. The gas plant could potentially produce more than twice the 1,365 MW output of **Gerald Gentleman Station**, Nebraska's largest existing power plant. If CCS is implemented at this scale, Yale professor Kenneth Gillingham told the Flatwater Free Press it would be "the largest operation of its kind in the country."

Confirmation status. It remains unclear how close the proposal is to becoming reality:

- **Google and Tenaska** did not respond to the Flatwater Free Press's inquiries.
- **Tallgrass**, named in the documents as the potential gas supplier and carbon transporter, denied involvement: "We do not have partnerships for a new data center or a Tenaska gas plant in Nebraska," said Steven Davidson, Tallgrass's SVP of government and public affairs — though he expressed support for enabling legislation.

Google told Cleanview that it doesn't have a contract in place for the Nebraska natural gas plant.

Legislative dependency. The project likely hinges on passage of **LB1261**, a bill proposed by the Governor's Office that would allow privately built and owned power facilities to serve large industrial customers and sell excess power back to public power districts. Under current Nebraska law, nonrenewable private power generation is permitted but **cannot connect to the grid**. The bill would carve out an exception for generators producing more than 1,000 MW for a single industrial customer, provided agreements with local utilities are in place before January 1, 2032. Nebraska's three largest public power districts have publicly supported the measure.

Land positioning. Tenaska has been actively preparing. Since December 2025, the company has optioned over **2,600 acres** of land across southeast Nebraska

under two LLC names, according to county deed records:

- ~1,000 acres in **Gage County**
- ~860 acres in **Cass County**
- ~450 acres in **Lancaster County**
- ~300 acres in **Otoe County**

A landowner in Otoe County told the Flatwater Free Press that a Tenaska representative mentioned the company was assembling ~2,000 acres near a gas pipeline for a power plant to serve an AI center. Tenaska CEO Chris Leitner told lawmakers during a hearing on LB1261 that the company is building over 9,000 MW of natural gas and energy storage nationally and has reserved **more than \$2 billion** worth of electricity generation equipment that could be available in late 2028.

Political and environmental scrutiny. State Sen. Danielle Conrad has filed amendments seeking additional oversight over agreements between private generators and public power districts. Critics have raised concerns about the potential impact on natural gas prices, given that gas is the primary fuel for heating homes in Nebraska. Tenaska made a \$50,000 donation to Gov. Jim Pillen's reelection campaign on December 30, 2025 — amid its land-optioning spree — bringing its total 2025 contributions to \$65,000, up from \$27,500 during Pillen's first gubernatorial run in 2022.

Existing footprint. Google already operates three data center locations in Nebraska (Papillion, Omaha, and Lincoln) and has invested over \$3.5 billion in the state's digital infrastructure since 2019.

Source: [Flatwater Free Press](#) (March 13, 2026)

Broadwing Energy Center — Decatur, Illinois

- **Capacity:** 400 MW
- **Turbine:** Mitsubishi Power M501JAC (single unit)
- **Carbon capture:** Yes (targeting ~90% of CO₂ emissions)
- **Developer:** Low Carbon Infrastructure (LCI), a portfolio company of I Squared Capital

- **EPC contractor:** Kiewit Power Constructors
- **Timeline:** Construction expected to begin in 2026; commercial operations targeted for late 2029; carbon capture online early 2030

In October 2025, Google announced a first-of-its-kind corporate offtake agreement to purchase the majority of the power from a new 400 MW natural gas cogeneration plant in Decatur, Illinois. The project is being developed by Low Carbon Infrastructure (LCI), a portfolio company of I Squared Capital, and represents one of the first instances of a major technology company directly backing a gas-fired power plant with integrated carbon capture.

Co-location and cogeneration. The plant is co-located at an Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) industrial facility and designed as a true cogeneration operation: electricity is distributed to Google via the grid and behind the meter to ADM, while steam is supplied to ADM's industrial processes.

Carbon capture infrastructure. The CCS component aims to capture ~90% of CO₂ emissions, compressing and injecting them into ADM's EPA Class VI-approved wells for permanent storage in the **Mount Simon sandstone formation**, more than a mile underground. ADM has operated CO₂ sequestration infrastructure at this site for nearly a decade — an unusual level of geological and operational familiarity for a CCS project.

Pipeline ambitions. LCI has described Broadwing as "the first in a pipeline" of CCS-enabled power facilities it plans to develop across North America in partnership with Google. No additional project names or locations have been disclosed.

Opposition and risks:

- **Illinois People's Action** has raised concerns about threats to Lake Decatur (the region's primary water source) and questioned CCS efficacy, citing a report claiming ADM's earlier CCS operations captured only 10–12% of total facility emissions.
- The U.S. Department of Energy **cancelled \$7.5 billion** in carbon management funding across 55 projects, creating broader policy headwinds for CCS — though it is unclear whether Broadwing was directly affected.

Sources: [Google](#); [Power Magazine](#)

Get the full report and dataset

The complete ~50-page report includes our analysis of 63 Google data centers across 20 states, detailed case studies, and the company's evolving power strategy in the AI era. You'll also get two data files—one covering all 63 data center sites and another with approximately 25 power deals and partnerships we identified.

[Get the full report here.](#)

Methodology

This excerpt and our full report are based on a review of more than 100 public documents, filings, and data sources—many of which have not been covered by other media or analysts. You can read the full methodology and learn how we found this data [here](#).