

Firm Events | March 31, April 21, and May 14 | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET

Webinar Series: Navigating the Data Center Boom: Rethinking Contracts, Risk, and Regulatory Strategy for 2026 and Beyond

Virtual Webinar

As AI continues to drive unprecedented demand for data center capacity, developers, owners, operators, and capital providers must revisit their project delivery, contracting, permitting, and stakeholder strategies. Traditional risk allocation and deal structures are antiquating under energy constraints, interconnection delays, supply chain pressure, and evolving federal and state regulatory frameworks around air, water, and large load power usage.

This three part webinar series brings together Troutman Pepper Locke construction, energy, environmental, and real estate attorneys to explore how these dynamics are reshaping the data center landscape in 2026 and beyond. Each session will provide practical perspectives on how market participants are reallocating risk, structuring contracts, and positioning projects to remain bankable and scalable in a rapidly changing environment.

CLE credit will be available.

Session 1 – Rewriting the Rules: 2026 Data Center Contracting & Risk Allocation for AI-Driven Facilities

Tuesday, March 31 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

[Click here to register.](#)

Speakers: [Jason Spang](#), [Vaughn Morrison](#), [Brandon Lobb](#)

Moderator: [Jamey Collidge](#)

As AI-driven workloads push data centers to unprecedented levels of scale and power intensity, traditional construction and real estate risk allocation are being rewritten. Join us for a practical, cross-disciplinary discussion of how operators, contractors, and power providers are reshaping contracts for data center projects — from interconnection and schedule risk to supply chain pressure and innovative, behind-the-meter power solutions.

Key Topics:

- **Power and Grid Risk:** How contracts address interconnection delays, power constraints, and “grid risk” across the project stack.
- **Supply Chain and Price Volatility:** Tools to manage long-lead equipment, early procurement, tariff developments, and pricing swings while preserving budget certainty.
- **Standards, Compliance, and Liability:** Balancing schedule pressure with equipment standards, code compliance, and risk allocation.

- **Construction in Live Facilities:** Approaches to outage planning, uptime exposure, and SLAs when building in operating data centers.
- **Hybrid and Behind-the-Meter Power:** Contracting for campus, modular, and alternative power solutions while managing interface and performance risk.

Session 2 – Permitting and Regulatory Challenges and Uncertainty

Tuesday, April 21 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

[Click here to register.](#)

Speakers: [Mack McGuffey](#), [Melissa Horne](#), [Casey Bell](#), [Ben Cowan](#)

Moderator: [Jamey Collidge](#)

Driven by the rapid expansion of AI and other digital infrastructure, data centers are facing heightened regulatory scrutiny over energy use, emissions, and community impacts. This webinar will explore the latest environmental and infrastructure considerations that influence project timelines, siting decisions, and risk allocation in high growth markets, including how emerging regulatory frameworks may influence permitting strategies and utility relationships.

Key Topics:

- **Major vs. Minor Air Permits:** Understanding the differences between major and minor air permits, and how those classifications affect project timelines, costs, and flexibility.
- **Air Permitting Challenges:** The likelihood and mechanics of air permit challenges, and how appeals, public comments, and litigation can impact project schedules and stakeholder engagement.
- **Air Quality and Site Selection:** How existing local air quality and attainment status should factor into siting decisions, permitting risk, and long-term expansion potential.
- **Temporary Power Options – Turbines vs. Engines:** Comparing emissions and permitting implications of portable turbines and reciprocating engines for temporary power.
- **Managing Curtailment and Outages:** Strategies to address curtailment and power outages, and how these risks influence project design, contracting, and operational planning.
- **Other Permitting and Site Selection Considerations:** Understanding how wildlife, natural resources, and other environmental liability and permitting matters influence site selection decisions.
- **Local, State, and Federal Regulations:** An overview of state and federal legislative efforts to pause or restrict data center construction.

CLE credit will be available.

Session 3 – The Owner’s Playbook: Navigating Power, Policy, and Performance in Data Center Development

Thursday, May 14 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET | Zoom

Registration details coming soon.

[Click here to add Session 3 to your calendar.](#)

Speakers: [Jason Spang](#), [Matt Dials](#), [Cindy DeLisi](#)

Moderator: [Jamey Collidge](#)

In a market defined by power constraints, regulatory flux, and rapid technological change, data center owners, operators, and capital providers are rethinking how they structure, finance, and deliver projects. Join us for a candid, owner-focused discussion on how to preserve bankability, manage evolving risks, and negotiate smarter contracts for the next wave of data center development.

Key Topics:

- **Bankability Under Pressure:** How owners and investors are underwriting data center projects amid power, interconnection, and permitting uncertainty — and what still counts as “bankable.”
- **Permits, Policy, and Change-in-Law Risk:** Practical ways to address permitting delays, new environmental conditions, and change-in-law risk in long-term deals.
- **Coordinating Construction, Procurement, and Capital:** Aligning early equipment purchases, modular delivery, and nontraditional payment profiles with lender expectations.
- **Performance Guarantees and Owner-Side Outage Risk:** Flowing down lease requirements, defining commissioning and acceptance, and capturing owner/tenant needs in construction contracts.
- **Portfolio and Site Strategy for the Next Wave of Data Centers:** How owners are selecting markets, managing jurisdictional and regulatory differences, planning for future upgrades, and accounting for community impacts and labor availability.
- **Deal Table Pinch Points:** Where owners/developers and contractors most often clash on risk allocation — and approaches to closing the gap.

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