

Title 17 Definition Updates - Comments Received 8/10/26 - 8/24/26

#	Date Submitted	Name	Comment
1	8/10/2026 8:43 AM	Anthony Kiehl	A research laboratory would make use of remote data-centers for compute capacity, not on premises. A data-center is not a research lab and it's a bad faith argument. Someone claiming a data-center is a research lab is trying to make a grab for the citizenry's electricity and water.
2	8/10/2026 9:53 AM	Kari Purdy	Once the clarification has been made what is Kitsap County stance on Data Centers? Are they going to be allowed? My stance is they should not. Water is scarce and electricity. Both are needed for homes in Kitsap.
3	8/10/2026 10:17 AM	Cagdas Dirik	I am a resident of Kitsap County and I am commenting on this draft as an R&D engineer. It is appalling to observe bureaucracy to describe what a research is and try endlessly and meaningfully classify tools and buildings and people into different categories. I am not sure if the intention is to prevent data centers and research facilities. But these draft is meaningless edits on a meaningless zoning requirements. Take an Amazon distribution center. Do you really think only distribution people and good use that facility? Robots and AI engineers work there to research and develop new automation techniques. Do you think research engineers are always on site? I as a research engineer connect to different machines on different states and data centers on a given day to conduct my research. My point is that please stop trying to clarify concepts you have no idea practicing. If you like to contribute to the well being of WA residents and Kitsap County residents, please scrap all these zoning restrictions instead of wasting tax payers money for edits. Please stop blocking advancements, blocking engineers, blocking research and development.
4	8/16/2026 8:07 AM	Laurie Sterling	My understanding is that this is related to the potential for data centers to be built in our community. I am absolutely opposed to any data centers here. It is well documented that these centers bring great harm to communities for a number of reasons including significant disruption in infrastructure by overuse of water and electricity while bringing very little value to the community as a whole. We must make choices for the good of this community the priority over profit for the few.
5	8/16/2026 8:50 AM	Kelly Roberts	BOTH ordinances should include environmental policy language that have explicit expectations and guidelines of proper stewardship so as to not taint our county's health and well-being of all who live here - humans AND wildlife. The expectations for each type of facility should include, but are not limited to, the usage and waste management practices of all types of activities that are conducted in these facilities.
6	8/17/2026 2:23 PM	Gloria Krein	What prompted these edits? Are there specific sites or proposals of concern? On the face of it the edits appear to be only clarifying existing rules, not changing them materially. Is this true? Please reply.
7	8/24/2026 8:51 AM	David Pederson	Good Morning Commissioners: I am David Pedersen. In regards to KCC 17.110.658 Research Labs on page 3 of the Draft Ordinance, lines 26-28 state, "or other activities not involving on-going research, investigation, testing, or experimentation by on-site personnel are not research labs." BESS and data centers are new emerging technologies that are still being developed and are constantly having ongoing research, investigation that requires testing or experimentation improving the system's facility. In consideration an existing research lab can be a data center, please see attachment A that shows three examples of data centers that function like scientific labs. In regards to KCC 17.110.743 Warehousing and Distribution, in the Draft Ordinance line 39 states, "consisting exclusively of physical goods," in reading the Director's Interpretation, dated July 13, 2026 found on WA Kitsap Bulletins page, it clearly states, "facilities that do not store significant tangible goods." See attachments B and C. Since the Director's interpretation cites "tangible goods" and the word "tangible" is a clearer description, the word physical should be replaced with "tangible" in the edits In conclusion, I am requesting the BOCC not adopt the current draft ordinance amending KCC 17.110 until further studies have been done to develop a better definition of what a Research Lab is and for DCD to define in detail what a data center and BESS facility are as well! Respectfully David Pedersen (See Attachment A)

Examples of Data Centers That Function Like Scientific Labs

Several U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and national laboratory data centers operate much like scientific labs — they are purpose-built research environments for high-performance computing, data analysis, and scientific discovery, rather than general-purpose commercial data centers.

1. Brookhaven National Laboratory – Scientific Data and Computing Center (SDCC)

The SDCC at Brookhaven Lab began in 1997 as the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider Computing Facility and has since evolved into a full-service scientific computing hub. It supports major physics experiments (e.g., RHIC, ATLAS, Belle-II), the National Synchrotron Light Source II, and the Center for Functional Nanomaterials. The SDCC provides high-throughput, high-performance computing, data storage, analysis, and preservation, serving domains from physics to climate science  Brookhaven National Laboratory.

2. Jefferson Lab Data Center (JLDC)

Located at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, VA, the JLDC is a purpose-built research infrastructure for the DOE's High Performance Data Facility (HPDF). It is designed to meet the advanced computing, data, and AI needs of nuclear physics and other DOE science programs. Like a lab, it is not a commercial cloud facility but a specialized environment for scientific discovery  Jefferson Lab+1.

3. Oak Ridge National Laboratory – Next-Generation Data Centers Institute (NGDCI)

ORNL's NGDCI unites expertise in energy technologies, high-performance computing, cybersecurity, and grid science to secure and operate next-generation AI data centers. It supports the deployment of AI supercomputers like Discovery and Lux, focusing on power, cooling, and reliability for large-scale scientific workloads  Oak Ridge National Laboratory or ORNL.

Why They're "Like" Scientific Labs

- **Mission-driven:** Designed for specific scientific missions, not general internet services.
- **Specialized infrastructure:** High-performance computing, advanced storage, and data analysis tools.
- **Research focus:** Used for experiments, simulations, and analysis in fields like physics, biology, climate, and energy.
- **Controlled environments:** Similar to labs, with strict environmental, security, and operational protocols  Green Harvest Capital.

In short, these data centers are not just storage and server rooms — they are **scientific computing laboratories** that enable cutting-edge research across multiple disciplines.

11 the citizens of Kitsap County.

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13 **Section 4. Kitsap County Code Section 17.110.658 Research laboratory, last**
14 **amended by Ordinance 611-2022, is amended as follows:**

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16 17.110.658 Research laboratory.

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18 “Research laboratory” means a building or group of buildings used for scientific research,
19 investigation, and testing, or experimentation, but not facilities for the manufacture or sale
20 of products, except as incidental to the main purpose of the laboratory. Research
21 laboratories are characterized by the presence of researchers, technicians, scientists,
22 engineers, or similar personnel conducting research, investigative, testing, or experimental
23 activities within the laboratory, testing areas, or related workspaces. A research laboratory
24 may include associated offices, equipment, and support spaces directly related to
25 research functions. Facilities whose primary function is equipment operation, utility
26 service provision, storage, warehousing, or other activities not involving ongoing research,
27 investigation, testing, or experimentation by on-site personnel are not research
28 laboratories.

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30 **Section 5. Kitsap County Code Section 17.110.743 Warehousing and distribution,**
31 **last amended by Ordinance 611-2022, is amended as follows:**

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33 17.110.743 Warehousing and distribution.

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35 “Warehousing and distribution” means a use involving a facility where **only physical** goods
36 are received and/or stored for delivery to other firms or the final customer. **physical**
37 **merchandise, physical materials, or physical equipment are stored for subsequent**
38 **distribution, sale, transfer, or use elsewhere. A use that does not maintain an inventory**
39 **consisting exclusively of physical goods shall not be considered warehousing and**
40 **distribution.**

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42 **Section 6. Scrivener's Error.**