



FACT SHEET



Noise, Infrasound & Our Data Centers

A DC BLOX Community Resource for Indianapolis

DC BLOX is planning a data center development in Indianapolis. You might be worried that data centers create constant loud noise or unusual low-frequency sounds. This overview explains how DC BLOX data centers are designed to operate quietly and limit sound impacts on surrounding communities. Read on to learn more.

Do data centers make noise?

Yes, data centers produce some sound, just like any other building that uses HVAC systems, refrigeration, electrical equipment, or backup power systems. The sound comes from conventional mechanical equipment, not from a unique or mysterious source. Reinforced walls, insulation, equipment placement, landscaping, and other site design features help reduce sound before it reaches nearby areas.

What is infrasound? Do DC BLOX data centers emit infrasound?

Sound volume (quiet/loud) is measured in decibels (dB). Pitch (low/high) is measured in hertz (HZ). Infrasound refers to very low-frequency sound that is below the range most people can hear (quiet and low). Low-frequency sound exists in everyday life, including traffic, HVAC systems, refrigerators, wind, storms, and industrial equipment. Less-sophisticated data centers (like crypto mines) with low budget cooling create humming noises from numerous fans. But no research has shown that data centers in general produce infrasound.

How loud will the DC BLOX Indianapolis project be?

DC BLOX has committed that the Indianapolis project will not exceed 65 decibels at the property line. That is about the sound level of normal conversation in a restaurant or open office. During normal operations, sound levels are expected to be lower than that.

Backup generators will face inward and away from residential areas and will only run during power outages or limited testing. Routine generator testing will occur once per month for about 30 minutes and will not occur at night, on weekends, or on holidays.

How does this compare to other uses of the site?

The site is zoned for medium industrial use. Other allowed uses could include truck terminals, warehouses, manufacturing, or other facilities with more outdoor activity, truck traffic, loading operations, and equipment noise. By comparison, a data center has limited vehicle traffic during normal operations, and most mechanical sound is contained inside the building or buffered by site design.



Have questions about data center noise or infrasound?

Visit dcbloxindy.com to review project commitments, see updated project information, and submit questions to the DC BLOX team.



How DC BLOX designs data centers to operate quietly and limit sound impacts



≤65 dB at property line



Sound-reducing design



Ordinary HVAC and cooling equipment



Generators face inward



Monthly daytime testing only



Questions: dcbloxindy.com