

Memphis Aquifer Action Toolkit

Hold xAI Accountable. Your Voice on the Record.

xAI's water reuse facility is indefinitely paused with no timeline. We need to ban together and let every decision-maker involved know that this is unacceptable.

Key Facts

- **840,000 gallons per day** was drawn from the Memphis Sand Aquifer by Colossus 1 (and that was a winter month, the lowest cooling demand season)
- A Water Reuse Facility promised: A wastewater recycling plant to reduce the data center's draw on the Memphis Sand Aquifer was central to the xAI deal. It was not optional.
- \$100 million+ already invested in the water reuse facility before construction was paused with no public explanation
- **xAI pays \$0.19 per 100 gallons. Memphis residents pay \$0.32 per 100 gallons.** MLGW's water rate structure charges industry *less* the *more* they use.
- 13 community organizations formally requested a public hearing. Mayor Young denied the request on April 30, 2026.

xAI Continues To Build

- Elon Musk stated Colossus II was prioritized over the water facility plant when the indefinite pause was released.
- On July 31, it was revealed a fourth data center was built, MiniHard, with the only local document revealing a \$659M building permit from March – but no details.
- SpaceXAI is delaying the decommissioning of the “temporary” gas turbines in Mississippi until July 2027. Meaning they will operate for 2 years, burning fossil fuel and using water.
- Mayor Young secured a commitment from SpaceXAI President Michael Nicolls to resume construction no later than Q1 2027. That's a start—but a verbal commitment is not a project schedule.

What We're Demanding

- Council should formally request that **SpaceXAI leadership appear before the Memphis City Council for a public briefing on water.** Not a press release. Not an X Post. In person.
- Public, detailed timeline: when construction resumes, major construction milestones, anticipated completion, commissioning, and the date when recycled water will actually be available for industrial use.
- City leadership learns from this experience and requires binding agreements and strong water protections in land use.

Unanswered Questions the Community Deserves Answers To

- Is Colossus 1's closed-loop cooling system still fully intact?
- Does the closed loop cooling system use PFAS or forever chemicals in its process?
- What is the City doing to enforce the reversion clause in the 2025 land sale agreement?
- These are winter numbers. What happens when summer cooling demand peaks?
- How much water is Colossus 2 in Whitehaven drawing, with zero water commitment attached?
- How much water is the newest facility “MiniHard” drawing from the aquifer?
- Will Colossus 3 (codename: MACROHARDRR) come before the water reuse facility - again?
- What about other commercial users who planned to use recycled wastewater from this facility?

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Attend and Speak



City Council:

- August 4, 2026 | 4:00 PM | City Hall, 125 N. Main St
- August 18, 2026 | 4:00 PM | City Hall, 125 N. Main St
- September 1, 2026 | 4:00 PM | City Hall, 125 N. Main St

MLGW Board:

- August 5, 2026 | 8:30 AM | MLGW Admin Building, 220 S. Main St
- August 19, 2026 | 8:30 AM | MLGW Admin Building, 220 S. Main St
- September 2, 2026 | 8:30 AM | MLGW Admin Building, 220 S. Main St

City Council: sign up on-site or submit written comments by 12 PM day-of (3 minutes in-person).

MLGW: submit comment card to Security by 8:30 AM, include name and street address. Livestream: mlgw.com/livestream

Take Action: Your Advocacy Toolkit

Tips for a Strong Comment

- Use your own words. Personal comments carry more weight than copy-paste.
- Cite the data: 840,520 gal/day in February '26 and \$0.19 vs \$0.32 per 100 gallons.
- Include your neighborhood or zip code. Local specificity matters.
- End with a direct ask: require a binding public timeline.

Who to Contact

Mayor of Memphis: Mayor Paul Young | mayor@memphistn.gov

Memphis City Council: City Hall: 125 N. Main St | (901) 636-6786

Council Member	District	Email (@memphistn.gov)
J. Ford Canale (Chairman)	SD 9-2	Jford.canale@memphistn.gov
Jana Swearengen-Washington (Vice Chair)	D4	Jana.Swearengen-Wash@memphistn.gov
Rhonda Logan	D1	Rhonda.Logan@memphistn.gov
Jerri Green	D2	jerri.green@memphistn.gov
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Edmund Ford, Sr.	D6	Edmund.FordSr@memphistn.gov
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Dr. Jeff Warren	SD 9-3	Jeff.Warren@memphistn.gov

MLGW Board of Commissioners

MLGW Admin Building, 220 S. Main St | Board contact: ddouglas@mlgw.org | Agendas: mlgw.iqm2.com

Commissioner	Role
Michael E. Pohlman	Chair
Carl Person	Vice Chair
Cheryl Pesce	Commissioner
Leon Dickson, Sr.	Commissioner
Kevin Woods	Commissioner
James Lewellen	Advisory (non-voting)
John Butler	Advisory (non-voting)

How to Request Public Records

City of Memphis - Open Records

- Portal: memphistn.gov/government/open-records/
- Email: cityrecords@memphistn.gov
- What to request: 2025 xAI land sale agreement, reversion clause documentation, all City-xAI communications regarding the water reuse facility

MLGW - Utility and Water Records

- Portal: <https://mlgw.justfoia.com/publicportal/home/newrequest>
- Email: mlgwpublicrecords@mlgw.org
- What to request: Monthly water consumption records for xAI Colossus 1 and 2 from December 2025 to present; large industrial water rate schedule

Want free feedback before you submit? Email your draft comment or testimony to info@younggiftedgreen.org, and Young Gifted & Green will review and respond.

Self-Assess: *Did you meet all four goals? Clearly Stated Problem; Specific Policy Mentioned; Identify Stakeholders; Provides Solutions*