Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

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Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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February 4, 2026

The Honorable Timothy J. Walsh
Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Dr. Darío Gil
Office of Science
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: **ASHRAE Standard 90.4 for DOE AI Data Centers**

Dear Assistant Secretary Walsh and Under Secretary Gil:

I am writing regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) efforts to use National Laboratory sites for energy generation and data center construction to accelerate the development of artificial intelligence technologies. We are encouraged to see DOE soliciting proposals from U.S. companies to build and power AI data centers on four National Lab sites. As DOE advances the procurement process, we encourage DOE to recommend that your partners use **ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 90.4-2025, *Energy Standard for Data Centers*** to optimize energy performance without compromising availability or reliability. Additionally, we recommend they use cooling systems compliant with **ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 127-2020, *Method of Testing for Rating Cooling Equipment Serving Data Center (DC) and Other Information Technology Equipment (ITE) Spaces*.** Efficient cooling of ITE through comprehensive design of the data center via Standard 90.4 and optimal cooling methods supported via Standard 127 ensures efficiency and longevity of the ITE.

ASHRAE is a professional and technical society of more than 54,000 members focused on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration, and resilience within the built environment. ASHRAE is actively engaged in developing robust, voluntary, consensus-based standards and is one of only seven standards-developing organizations in the United States authorized to self-certify that its standards follow procedures established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). For more than a decade, ASHRAE has been at the forefront of developing technical resources, training, and consensus-based standards specifically for the data center industry.

ASHRAE previously submitted comments on May 7, 2025, in response to DOE's Request for Information on Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure on DOE Lands. In that submission, we provided detailed technical information on Standard 90.4, which establishes a framework for the energy-efficient design of data centers, with special consideration for their unique load requirements compared to other building types. ASHRAE also has several technical resources which serve as guidance to data center engineers, users, and operators including our Data Center Resource Page, and ASHRAE TC 9.9

Datacom Encyclopedia. ASHRAE members and non-members have used these resources in the past to build high-efficiency mission-critical data centers. As you move forward with selecting development teams to build and power AI data centers at DOE Labs, we hope that you will refer them Standard 90.4, Standard 127, and our technical resources which will help support the Administration's goals of providing reliable and affordable energy, revitalizing America's manufacturing base, and addressing growing national energy demand.

ASHRAE wants to continue being a supportive partner in DOE's efforts to advance technological innovation and energy performance, and we hope that use of Standard 90.4 will bolster DOE's work with AI data center development. We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss any questions or concerns. Please feel free to contact me directly or have your staff reach out to GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026