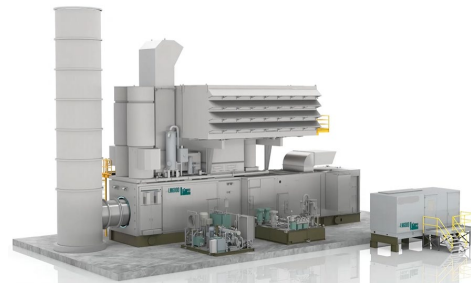
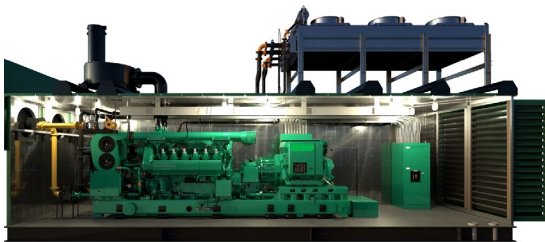


## Valara Holdings High Performance Compute Center: *Air Quality Construction Permits*

### About the facility

Valara Holdings High Performance Compute Center (also referred to as “Valara” or by its parent company, “NorthMark Strategies”) is a data center located in Spartanburg, S.C. The facility is required to receive certain environmental permits from SCDES before it can begin operations, in addition to other local permits from other entities.

Valara will provide its own onsite electricity using 24 generators (*below left*) being fueled with natural gas (which were previously permitted under Air Permit No. CP-50000316 in September 2025) and the proposed 11 simple cycle turbines (*below right*) fueled with natural gas that are being requested under draft permit CP-50000422.



*Above are manufacturer/standard depictions, not photographs of the actual as-built units. Each unit is custom-built to project specifications and may differ in configuration, components, options, scale, and arrangement (among other elements); features shown may not be present, and features present may not be shown. Not to scale; not engineering or as-built drawings; not a representation or warranty of any unit's specifications or compliance.*

### What is being proposed?

Valara is seeking the addition of 11 simple cycle turbines, as follows:

- Five 17 Megawatt simple cycle Baker Hughes combustion turbines
- Six 54 Megawatt simple cycle General Electric combustion turbines

### What is an air permit?

SCDES's Bureau of Air Quality issues air quality permits that limit the amount of regulated air pollutants emitted at a facility. Air construction permits are issued to a facility to specify what conditions must be met to demonstrate compliance with state and federal air quality regulations and standards. These air quality regulations and standards are established to be protective of public health and the environment.

### What is a synthetic minor construction permit?

Synthetic minor construction permits are issued when potential air emissions are at or greater than major source threshold levels, but the facility has requested federally enforceable limits to restrict (or

cap) potential emissions to below major source levels. Draft air permits contain specific emissions testing, monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements that would be necessary to demonstrate compliance with emissions limits. The draft permit, application and supporting information for Valara are available at [des.sc.gov/Valara](https://des.sc.gov/Valara).

### What air pollutants will be emitted?

Valara’s generators and proposed turbines will generate emissions of particulate matter (PM) less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>), particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and some hazardous air pollutants (HAP).

Each generator or turbine will be equipped with air pollution control devices to reduce emissions into the air. The generators and proposed turbines will all be equipped with selective catalytic reduction air pollution control devices to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, and oxidation catalyst control devices to reduce CO, VOC, formaldehyde and other hazardous air pollutants (HAP) emissions. The potential controlled emissions from the facility would be:

Pollutant	(tons/year)
PM <sub>10</sub>	158.48
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	158.48
SO <sub>2</sub>	9.51
NO <sub>x</sub>	223.17
CO	201.83
VOC	60.94
Total HAP	19.65
Formaldehyde	9.39

### About the air quality analysis

An air dispersion modeling analysis was performed as part of this permit application review. This analysis is a computer-based method that predicts how emissions move through the atmosphere after they leave a facility’s stacks (or vents). The computer model uses information about the emissions, stack parameters, and weather data to estimate pollutant levels in the surrounding area. These estimates are used to determine whether emissions are expected to remain below health-based standards.

***The Air Dispersion Modeling Analysis performed for Valara showed that facility-wide emissions would not cause or contribute to a violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards or South Carolina air quality standards, both of which exist for protecting air quality for people and the environment.***

### How will SCDES ensure compliance?

This air permit outlines the recordkeeping, reporting, testing and monitoring requirements to meet state and federal air quality standards. SCDES staff enforce these requirements by conducting unannounced compliance inspections and complaint investigations, reviewing periodic compliance reports and onsite logs, observing stack tests performed by a third-party and taking enforcement action if violations are found. SCDES does not regulate noise or lighting; local ordinances may address these matters.