

THE OKLAHOMAN

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OG&E, Google deals face questions

Ratepayer protections are put under scrutiny

Jeff Elkins
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

As tech giants eye Oklahoma's affordable electricity for data centers, Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) tells regulators and customers that their presence could reduce bills. But confidential contracts and infrastructure costs raise the question of whether the grid can support large-load power users without shifting costs or reliability risks onto ratepayers.

A September settlement framework between OG&E and Google includes three energy service agreements (ESA) that could save the average residential customer $6.84 a month by 2036. Two cover data centers in Muskogee County, and one covers a site in Stillwater.

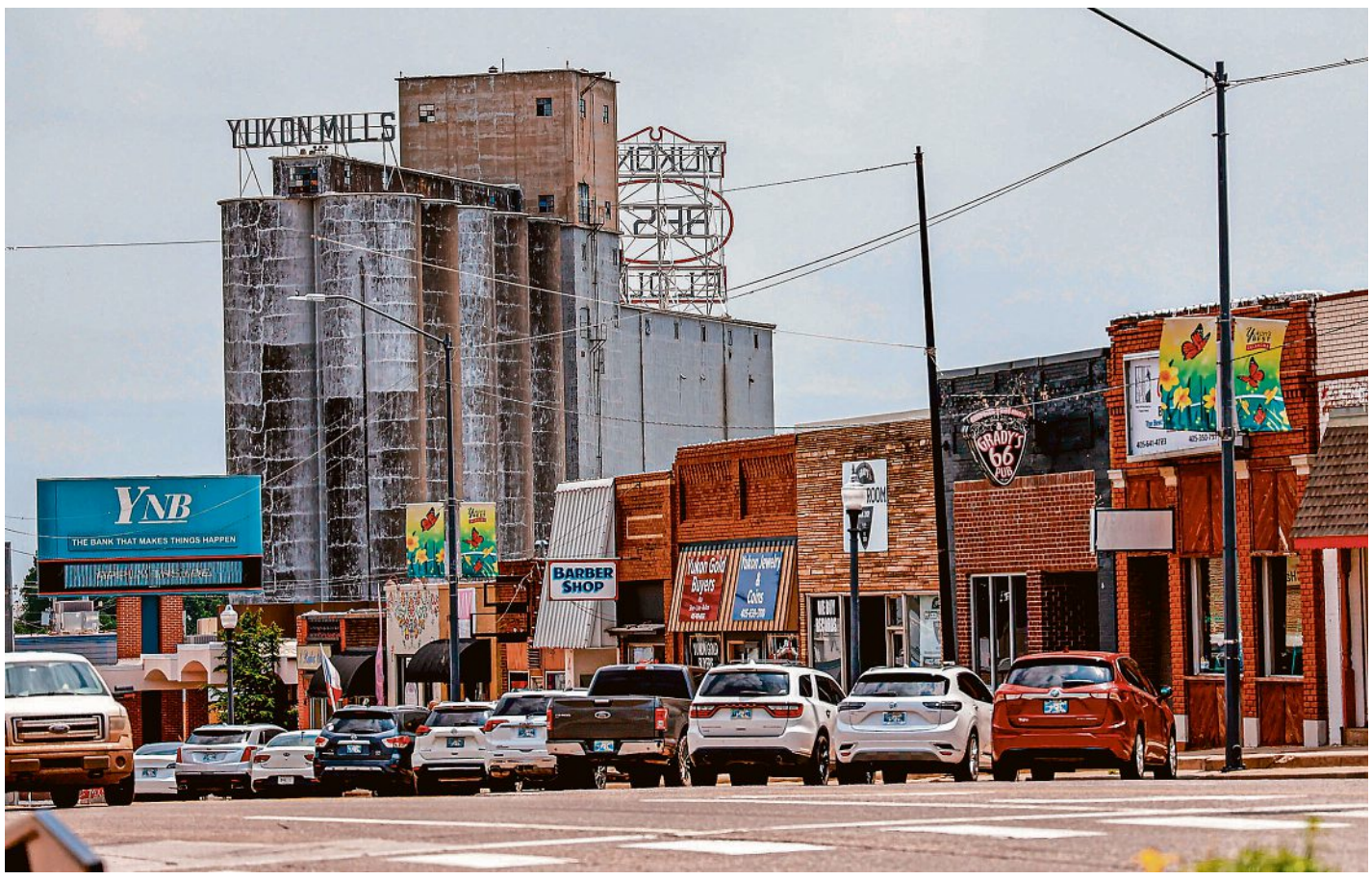
But if riders and rate reviews before the Oklahoma Corporation Commission are approved as power demand

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An aerial view of an Amazon Web Services Data Center in Ashburn, Virginia. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

BALLOT BACKLASH



Yukon Mills is pictured in Yukon on May 24, 2024. NATHAN J. FISH/THE OKLAHOMAN

Voters push back against data centers and their supports

Jessie Christopher Smith The Oklahoman | USA TODAY NETWORK

YUKON —

Joe Phillips was caring for his toddler grandson on a weekday afternoon, still processing the results of a recall election that saw him win in a landslide against the mayor of his town.● The 65-year-old retired college baseball coach has been living for only a few years in Yukon, a suburban city of about 27,000 residents just west of Oklahoma City, but has fallen in love with the community. Phillips said he was approached by organizers of a recall petition to run against incumbent Yukon Mayor and Ward 3 Councilman Brian Pillmore.

The recall supporters had already criticized Pillmore for how he and a City Council majority had abruptly fired a former city manager in 2024, months before a lengthy audit uncovered long-term financial mismanagement and misconduct issues with the city. A failed amphitheater proposal also did not endear Pillmore to citizens.

But local outrage reached a fever pitch after

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Edmond pauses plan for new zoning district

Richard Mize
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

EDMOND — Edmond's attempt to rein in prostitution isn't working, Mayor Mark Nash said.

Strict requirements imposed on massage parlors in June are not giving city officials enough information to adequately review applicants, and the public process is embarrassing legitimate operators, he and Edmond City Council members said at a late-October meeting.

Council members apologized. Nash called for a moratorium on issuing specific-use permits for massage businesses until city staff can come up with a better way to vet applicants. Those already engaged in the permitting process will continue. A pause on

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Mona Lisa Massage, 613 S Broadway Ave. in Edmond, is one of three massage businesses the Edmond City Council postponed permitting until the owner provides more information.
RICHARD MIZE/THE OKLAHOMAN

Skeletal remains from lake identified as siblings

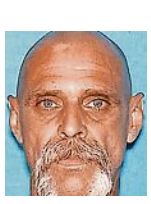
Nolan Clay
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

Outdoorsman Eddie Carper was fishing on Pine Creek Lake in southeastern Oklahoma in October despite the dangerously low water levels when he hit what he at first thought was an old boat trailer.

"It is barely visible just under the surface. It might be an old flatbed truck. I couldn't tell for sure but it has an axle & 2 wheels. Found it with my trolling motor today. A $3,200 ... mistake!" he posted on Facebook Oct. 14.

Turns out it actually was a van that was submerged just off a boat ramp. Inside were the skeletal remains of a brother and sister who went missing in 2022.

"I ran into it with my boat," Carper, who lives in Valliant, told The Oklahoman. "I reported it. ... I'm just glad we found them and their kin gets closure."



Timothy Woodman



Terry Woodman

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation disclosed on Thursday, Nov. 5, that the skeletal remains have been identified as Timothy Woodman and his sister, Terry Woodman.

Both were living in 2022 in Wright City, records show. The small town in McCurtain County is about a 30-minute drive from where their remains were found.

"Both individuals were reported missing in September of 2022 to the Wright City Police Department," the OSBI said in a news release posted on

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