

SOUTHSIDE TOGETHER



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ILLINOIS QUANTUM MICROELECTRONICS PARK

 The Quantum Facility 

WHAT IS IT?

- \$9 billion development on the former, contaminated South Works site to build a quantum computer
- 128+ acres, with potential to expand to over 400 acres, directly on the lakefront

WHO IS BEHIND THIS?

- Governor JB Pritzker, Mayor Brandon Johnson, aldermen Greg Mitchell (7th ward) and Peter Chico (10th ward)
- Silicon Valley tech company PsiQuantum and IBM
- Department of Defense through IL-DARPA
- Chicago Quantum Exchange (based at the University of Chicago, with partners like UIUC, the Israel Institute of Technology, Boeing, JP Morgan, and more)
- Related Midwest and Claretian Associates

WHY SHOULD WE CARE??

JOBS

The facility won't meaningfully bring jobs to people in the community.

- PsiQuantum has only promised 150 jobs, most of which will not go to residents.
- There may be temporary construction jobs for residents, but construction workers will be directly exposed to harmful pollutants from the contaminated land.

GENTRIFICATION & DISPLACEMENT

The facility will drive up rents and property taxes, pushing residents out of the neighborhood.

- Scientists with high-paying salaries will move in, and there will be a tax rebate for businesses but not for residents.
- With the quantum facility on one side of South Shore and the Obama Center on the other, developers are sure to build an economic corridor inaccessible to long-term residents in between.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?? (Part 2)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- The facility will poison our soil, air, and water, threaten our health, and contribute to the climate crisis.
- The South Works site is contaminated, so breaking ground will release pollutants that are harmful to residents, students, and construction workers in the neighborhood.
- The computer will need to be kept at -450 °F. PsiQuantum has claimed it will not use or pollute lake water, but their zoning permit includes Lake Michigan. They have also claimed that they will only use water, helium, and nitrogen to maintain this temperature, but with no transparency, nothing is stopping them from using traditional refrigerants that are highly toxic.
- Data centers like this require lots of energy, worsening the already apocalyptic climate crisis and raising our bills. Stakeholders claim the facility will be carbon free and not impact our bills but have not explained how that's possible.

SURVEILLANCE & POLICING

The Department of Defense's involvement suggests that the facility will be heavily policed and be used to develop technology that will harm Black and brown folks.

- The government will deploy police to already overpoliced communities on the South and Southeast sides to "protect" the facility.
- The facility will be a site for developing military technology. The only proven use of quantum computing is encrypting and decrypting data. With quantum computing, the government would be able to hack into all of our data, which we know they would use to surveil and police Black and brown folks.

IT'S NOT FOR US

If the city and state truly cared about our futures, they would invest directly into our communities, instead of experiments that make more money for the wealthy.

- Quantum computing is just another new technology that won't be used to help our communities and is likely to deeply harm them. The money for this facility could just be for our housing, schools, clinics, grocery stores, climate solutions, etc. This technology isn't for us, and this facility isn't for us.

NO TRANSPARENCY, NO ACCOUNTABILITY

- Nobody who will be impacted by the facility has had a voice in its development. It is clear that they do not plan on including us in their decision making.
- The city announced that the facility would be happening in July, wants to start construction as early as this month, and aims to have the facility be operating by 2027. Despite public calls to slow down the facility, city council has already passed its zoning permit and a tax rebate on the site.
- Stakeholders consistently lie about their plans, deflect from residents' questions, and claim to not know information that they clearly do.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?



Join us for a **Quantum & Environmental Justice Teach-In** at **South Shore Library** on **April 13th at 2 pm**.

Learn more about the harms of the quantum facility at **bit.ly/stopquantum**.



Folks on the South Side should have the power to make decisions about our own communities - and we're ready to build that power. JOIN US!



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