

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

Data Center & Cryptomining Case File

CaseLock Community Defense Intelligence Platform

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SECTION 1 — WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE

Hood County, Texas (Granbury area, population ~62,000) has become one of the premier flashpoints in North America for cryptocurrency mining and AI data center expansion. As of mid-2026, developers have proposed 8 major data center projects spanning over 7,600 acres.

8 DATA CENTER PROJECTS — 7,600+ ACRES — 3.5+ GIGAWATTS

Hood County ranks 6th in Texas for total planned data center development.

Active Facility: MARA Granbury Data Center — 300 MW cryptomine at 8787 Wolf Hollow Court, Granbury. Owned by MARA Holdings (formerly Marathon Digital). Acquired 2024 for \$178M.

Major Proposed: Sailfish Comanche Circle — 2,600-acre, 2,000-3,200 MW hyperscale campus near Tolar. Developer: Sailfish Digital Ventures (West Palm Beach, FL).

Project Patriot: ~600 MW data center + gas plant near Granbury ETJ by Bilateral Energy LLC.

- 5 additional proposed sites along rural transmission corridors

Sources: Texas Tribune (June 2, 2026), KERA News, Baxtel, Fast Company, Hood County News

SECTION 2 — NOISE AND HEALTH IMPACTS

24/7 LOW-FREQUENCY NOISE POLLUTION: The MARA Granbury cryptomine operates thousands of Bitmain Antminer rigs with high-velocity air fans. Residents in adjacent subdivisions (Mitchell Bend, Meander Estates, Comanche Cove, Oak Trail Shores) report severe noise pollution, sleep disruption, headaches, tinnitus, and diminished quality of life.

Fast Company documented the community's experience: 'A small Texas town has been haunted by a Bitcoin mine.'

Source: Fast Company — <https://www.fastcompany.com/91190198/a-small-texas-town-has-been-haunted-by-a-noisy-bitcoin-mine>

SECTION 3 — WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Primary Water Body: Lake Granbury (Brazos River reservoir managed by Brazos River Authority)

Aquifer: Paluxy Aquifer and Trinity Aquifer — shallow domestic wells at risk

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY STATEMENT: BRA formally stated it does NOT have unallocated firm water available for new data center cooling contracts in Lake Granbury. Developers must look to groundwater wells or regional water districts.

Hyperscale AI data centers (like Comanche Circle) consuming 1-10 MGD of water in a drought-prone region is a critical concern. Rural residents on shallow wells fear drawdown and well failure.

Sources: Brazos River Authority, Hood County News, WCPO

SECTION 4 — ENERGY

Wolf Hollow Generating Station: 1,115 MW gas-fired plant owned by Constellation Energy. Directly serves MARA cryptomine.

Wolf Hollow III Expansion: Constellation applying for 8 additional gas turbines (300-800 MW) specifically for data center demand.

Transmission: 345 kV ERCOT transmission corridors pass through Hood County.

Total Proposed Load: 3,500+ MW (3.5 GW) — equivalent to millions of homes, placing immense pressure on ERCOT grid stability.

SECTION 5 — GOVERNANCE

Hood County Commissioners Court (5 members): Need to verify current composition.

Developers specifically target unincorporated county land outside Granbury's municipal boundaries to avoid city zoning, noise ordinances, and architectural review. Texas law provides minimal zoning authority in unincorporated areas.

KERA News reported the Commissioners Court gave conditional approval to the 2,100-acre Comanche Circle project (January 13, 2026), then approved it without conditions on June 9, 2026 after a contentious meeting.

SECTION 6 — COMMUNITY RESPONSE

- Residents have organized to fight noise pollution and water depletion

- MARA operates a community portal (maragranbury.com) attempting to manage public relations
- City of Granbury issued official statements addressing data center rumors
- Contention within Commissioners Court over project approvals
- Texas Tribune documented the community fight in June 2026

SECTION 7 — WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. **Attend Commissioners Court meetings** and demand public votes on all data center projects
2. **File TCEQ complaints** for noise pollution from the MARA facility
3. **Document noise levels** — use decibel meters and keep logs for evidence
4. **Monitor water well levels** — record water table depth regularly
5. **Contact state legislators** about data center regulation in unincorporated areas
6. **Request BRA water allocation records** — verify no new contracts have been issued
7. **Support municipal annexation** — bringing unincorporated land into Granbury would subject it to city zoning

SECTION 8 — KEY SOURCES

1. Texas Tribune — 8 data centers in Hood County (June 2, 2026)
2. KERA News — Comanche Circle approvals (Jan & June 2026)
3. Fast Company — MARA Granbury noise pollution
4. Brazos River Authority — Water availability statement
5. Hood County News — Sailfish developer coverage
6. MARA Granbury — maragranbury.com
7. Baxtel — Sailfish Comanche Circle data center profile
8. Data Center Dynamics — Sailfish multi-gigawatt plans