

# NAACP files intent to sue Elon Musk's xAI company over supercomputer air pollution

The NAACP has filed an intent to sue Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company over air pollution from a supercomputer data center in Memphis

By ADRIAN SAINZ Associated Press  
June 17, 2025, 10:29 AM



2:38

**Elon Musk says he 'went too far' in some posts critical of Trump** Musk, early on Wednesday, said that he regrets some of the posts he made about Presiden... [Show more](#) ✓

MEMPHIS, Tenn. -- The NAACP filed an intent to sue Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company xAI on Tuesday over concerns about [air pollution generated by a supercomputer](#) located near predominantly Black communities.

The xAI data center began operating gas turbines last year, emitting air pollution, without first applying for a permit under an exemption that allowed them to do so for 364 days. The permit application now being considered by the Shelby County Health Department calls for the use of 15 turbines, though the Southern Environmental Law Center says there are as many as 35 turbines located at the sprawling facility.

Musk's xAI said the turbines will be equipped with technology to reduce emissions — and that it's already boosting the city's economy by investing billions of dollars in the supercomputer facility, paying millions in local taxes and creating hundreds of jobs. The company also is spending \$35 million to build a power substation and \$80 million to build a water recycling plant to the support Memphis, Light, Gas and Water, the local utility.

But the Southern Environmental Law Center, among others, says the supercomputer is stressing the power grid, and that the gas-powered turbines emit smog and carbon dioxide, pollutants that cause lung irritation such as nitrogen oxides, and the carcinogen formaldehyde, experts say.

The chamber of commerce in Memphis made a surprise announcement in June 2024 that xAI planned to build a supercomputer in the city. The data center quickly set up shop in an industrial park south Memphis, near factories and a gas-powered plant operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The SELC has claimed the use of the turbines violates the Clean Air Act and notes that residents who live near the xAI facility already face cancer risks at four times the national average. The group also has sent a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency.

## **Related Topics**

[Elon Musk](#)



## Sponsored Content by Taboola

### **Nobel Prize Winner Daniel Kahneman Recommends: 5 Books For Turning Your Life Around**

Sponsored / Blinkist: Celebrity Reading Lists

### **Master Languages for Life: Babbel's Lifetime Offer is Finally Here!**

Sponsored / Babbel

[Get Offer](#)

### **Neuroscientist Andrew Huberman Recommends: 5 Books For Turning Your Life Around**

Sponsored / Blinkist: Celebrity Reading Lists

### **Affordable Signage Device**

Sponsored / Amazon

[Order Now](#)

[ABC News Network](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Your US State Privacy Rights](#) [Children's Online Privacy Policy](#) [Interest-Based Ads](#)  
[About Nielsen Measurement](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information](#) [Contact Us](#)

© 2025 ABC News