MS Project Presentation Department of Environmental Science and Policy College of Science George Mason University

Candidate: Christopher Poole Presentation Date and Time: May 12th 10:30 – 11:30 AM Presentation Location: David King Hall 3006 Title: Data Centers in Northern Virginia - Integrating sustainability into data center development to meet forecasted energy demands

Project Director: Dr. Dann Sklarew **Committee:** Dr. Younsung Kim, Dr. Allison Richards

ABSTRACT

This policy analysis reviews the current regulatory framework and need to integrate sustainability in the development and operations of data centers in Northern Virginia. Multiple assessments and reports have found that data centers will consume more power and energy largely driven by the demand for AI and need for additional computing power. This analysis reviews the key challenges and issues while providing recommendations to address this critical issue.