

Principal Brief // two-minute read

- INFLUENCE MAPPING
- OSINT
- THREAT DOCTRINE

The Side Your Feed Misses

When a public conversation runs one way, the temptation is to decide who is behind it. The honest first answer is about which channel somebody happened to collect, and the honest second answer is usually that you do not yet know.

WHAT THIS IS

A reading method. Six questions to run before you accept anyone's conclusion about who is organized in a controversy that touches you, and a seventh step that is not a question: go pull the records on whoever your collection missed. Not proprietary.

WHY IT REACHES YOU

Because the conclusion lands on a person. Once a fight is described as a campaign, somebody has to be behind it, and the easiest name to reach becomes the answer. Getting the reading wrong is how a siting dispute or a policy fight becomes personal.

THREE THINGS TO TAKE FROM THIS

1

Volume proves what was observed

Inside one bounded corpus. It does not establish authenticity, sponsorship, cause, coordination or influence.

2

Ask for the denominator

Percentages with no disclosed base, over a two-week window, measure sample composition rather than the world.

3

Unknown starts the work

A missing constituency may be organizing elsewhere, or divided, or absent. Say which you know, then go find out.

DO THIS

- ☐ **YOU, ON ANY BRIEFING**
Ask what was collected and what it could not show, before you ask what it found.
- ☐ **YOU, WITH YOUR ANALYSTS**
Task the public record on whoever is missing: lobbying registrations, permit filings, hearing rosters, campaign finance, disclosures. A meaningful part of the gap is usually reachable.
- ☐ **YOU, BUYING MONITORING**
Ask what the product collects beyond media. Volume and sentiment are a feed, not an attribution.

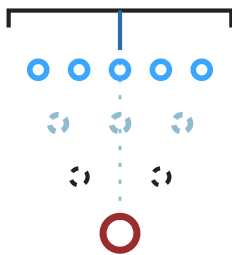
NOT THE STORY YOU MAY HAVE HEARD

Neither a concentrated conversation nor a scattered one tells you whether something is organized. Both shapes are compatible with either answer. And a constituency missing from your feed is not thereby hiding, and not thereby busy somewhere else.

HOW SURE WE ARE

High where the claim is about a document or a collection. We offer no rate for how often unseen organizing decides outcomes, because our own worked case went the other way. The brief also records a grade this method got wrong.

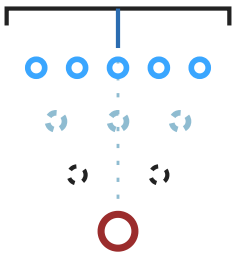
THE FULL COMMAND BRIEF FOLLOWS: THE FOUR LAYERS, THE COORDINATION MATRIX, AND THE SIX-QUESTION TEST.



CB-145 • Threat Doctrine

Reading the Battlefield

"The side you can watch may not be the only side that is organized. Before you decide who is behind a controversy, name what you were not positioned to see, and then say what you still do not know."



Contested issues often produce activity across several channels at once, and any single collection reaches some of them better than others. The danger is not the loud surface. It is mistaking it for the whole battlefield, and concluding that whoever is easiest to see is the force that decides the outcome. The mirror danger is concluding the opposite: that a quiet constituency must therefore be organized somewhere you cannot see. Both are inferences the evidence does not carry, and the second is the more comfortable one.

BLUF. A one-sided collection shows you which constituency dominates the collected corpus. It does not necessarily establish who dominates the platform, much less the controversy, and it says nothing about where the influence that decides the outcome runs. Reading the loudest surface as the whole fight is a recurring analytic error, and it fails in three directions, not two: it treats a genuine crowd as manufactured, it treats an unseen operation as absent, and it treats an absent constituency as a hidden one. The discipline is to name what each channel can and cannot reveal, leave unknown what is unknown, and then go collect the channels that are reachable.

The governing frame: what you can see is not the whole fight, and what you cannot see is not automatically a fight. This note is the reusable reading instrument. It is the observational companion to CB-144, which models how latent grievance is converted into a directed campaign. CB-144 explains why a controversy persists and attaches to a person. This note explains how to read who is actually organized while it is happening. CB-143 is the worked case, and a published vendor analysis is read here against its own sources as a second one.

► SCOPE AND BOUNDARY

This is a reading method for channel structure and publicly recorded conduct. It maps *where constituencies organize, not what private citizens believe*. Nothing here licenses collection against individuals on the basis of opinion, affiliation, or lawful advocacy. That standard is not a caveat appended to the method. It is part of the method, because a collection that strays from conduct to belief produces a worse reading as well as a worse ethic. The method itself is not proprietary. Any competent analyst can run it, and the point of writing it down is that most products do not.

FOUR LAYERS // ACTIVITY IS NOT INFLUENCE

Lobbying registrations, hearing testimony, campaign ties and official access establish institutional *activity*, not institutional *effect*. A registered lobbyist who loses is still a registered lobbyist. Keeping those two apart

is what stops a model of influence from licensing the promotion it exists to prevent, so engagement and demonstrated influence are separate layers here.

FIGURE 1 // THE FOUR LAYERS, AND WHAT IT TAKES TO ESTABLISH EACH

Layer	What it holds	What establishes it
1 // NARRATIVE SURFACE	What people publicly post, share, and repeat.	Directly sampled, bounded by platform, query, geography and window. Nothing beyond that boundary.
2 // MOBILIZATION	Toolkits, local organizers, meetings, the distribution that turns opinion into participation.	Organizer materials, event records, named coalitions. Surface traces raise the hypothesis; they do not measure it.
3 // INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT	Lobbying, testimony, filings, professional recruitment, legal strategy, official access.	The public record: registrations, dockets, hearing rosters, disclosures, calendars. Reachable, and rarely on a feed.
4 // DEMONSTRATED DECISION INFLUENCE	Engagement that actually moved an outcome.	The decision record, which establishes sequence: what was filed, who testified, what changed between drafts, how the vote moved. Then evidence connecting the intervention to the decision: a decision-maker's own attribution, correspondence or meeting records, unique language migrating from an intervention into a draft, contemporaneous internal documents, or a sequence strong enough to support a graded inference. Showing that both occurred is not showing that one caused the other.

Layer 4 is a records and causal-inference problem, not an unknowable one. The records establish what happened and in what order; demonstrated influence needs evidence connecting the intervention to the decision rather than evidence that both occurred, and the honest grade is frequently moderate for exactly that reason. The work is still ordinary and it is still the work: read the drafts, the testimony and the vote, then ask what links them. CB-143 reaches it in the easier direction. In Prince George's County the council passed a two-year moratorium over the recorded objection of the chamber and the developers, and a decision that went against an intervention is one the record can settle on its own; it is a layer 4 finding bounded to one decision in one county and carrying no rate.

SO WHAT

A finding drawn from layer 1 should be labeled as a layer 1 finding in the product, not in a footnote. Most of the damage this doctrine addresses comes from a layer 1 observation traveling upward and arriving as a layer 4 conclusion.

ASSESSING COORDINATION // SIX DIMENSIONS, NOT SIX RUNGS

Coordination collapses several distinct questions into one alarming word, and most false alarms come from answering the wrong one. The questions are not rungs on a ladder of escalating alarm. Participant relationship, organizer, sponsorship, presentation, amplification method and origin are independent dimensions: a professional campaign can be openly sponsored or secretly sponsored, human-amplified or automated, domestic or foreign, and organic alignment is not coordination at all. Assessed as a matrix, each dimension carries its own evidence requirement, and a claim is only as strong as the dimension it actually rests on.

FIGURE 2 // COORDINATION ASSESSMENT MATRIX. "NEVER" MARKS A CATEGORY ERROR; "NOT SUFFICIENT ALONE" MARKS A LEGITIMATE INDICATOR THAT CANNOT SETTLE THE DIMENSION BY ITSELF

DIMENSION	THE QUESTION IT ANSWERS	WHAT SETTLES IT, AND WHAT NEVER DOES
PARTICIPANT RELATIONSHIP	Are these people acting independently, or in contact?	Shared drafting records, communications or documented tasking can establish contact. Not sufficient alone: synchronized timing, or similar language in a small vocabulary; both are investigative indicators. Never: similar views.
ORGANIZER	Is there an organizer, and who is it?	Named sponsors, staff, distributed materials, registrations. Not sufficient alone: message similarity.
SPONSORSHIP DISCLOSURE	Is the funder disclosed?	Disclosure records establish disclosed funding only. Undisclosed funding needs payment records, contracts, internal documents or credible reporting. Never: tone or volume.
PRESENTATION	Is participation openly presented, or made to look independent when it is not?	Provenance of accounts, materials and sponsorship. Never: one-sidedness of a feed.
AMPLIFICATION	Human, automated, or both, and is the automation disclosed?	Account and behavioral data. Not sufficient alone: raw volume or posting cadence. Automation is not by itself deceptive.
ORIGIN AND CONTROL	Domestic, foreign, state-linked, or unknown?	Evidence of direction: tasking, payment, operational control. Never: geolocated posting, or foreign philanthropic funding of a domestic organization.

► THE NAMING RULE

The word campaign is not the problem, and treating it as an accusation is its own error. Unions, chambers of commerce, neighborhood associations and public-affairs firms all run campaigns, openly and on purpose. What requires evidence is not the word but *the sponsorship, the concealment, and the direction* a speaker packs into it. Before accepting anyone's campaign finding, ask which dimension of Figure 2 it rests on and what settled that dimension. If the answer is volume, nothing has been settled.

VISIBILITY ASYMMETRY // AND THE INFERENCE IT TEMPTS

The recurring condition this doctrine names is that different public surfaces select for different constituencies. A residents' forum shows residents. It does not show a chamber of commerce, a developer, a law firm, or a lobbyist, because those actors do not organize there, though a trade publication or an investor channel may show all four. There is no such thing as the public feed; there are particular surfaces with particular populations. So the correct first inference from a one-sided collection is not who is organized. It is which surface you happened to collect.

The tempting second step is to conclude that the quiet side must therefore be coordinating somewhere the collection never touches. That replaces one unsupported inference with another, and it is the error a reader is most likely to carry away from a note like this one. A constituency missing from your collection may be organizing elsewhere. It may also be poorly organized, internally divided, indifferent, waiting for a later stage, or absent altogether. The honest first conclusion is unknown, and the honest second move is to go and look where looking is possible.

A one-sided collection establishes which constituency dominates that corpus. The activity and influence of the missing ones stay unknown until other channels are examined, and a meaningful part of them can be.

The asymmetry does not only mislead the analyst. Each side uses it against the other. Organizing that cannot be seen reads as organizing that is being hidden, so the same blind spot supplies both the outside-money accusation and the corporate-front accusation. That is the mechanism, and it is symmetric.

FIGURE 3 // WHICH SURFACES SELECT FOR WHICH CONSTITUENCY, AND WHAT REACHES THE REST

Constituency	More visible in	Reachable through
RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORS	Neighborhood forums, local social platforms, petitions, local news comment.	Already visible on resident-oriented surfaces, and over-represented there.
INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPERS	Trade media, professional networks, chambers, industry events, investor press.	Lobbying registrations, permit and zoning filings, corporate statements, association membership.
POLITICAL ACTORS	Campaign channels, government records, local news.	Campaign finance, public calendars, hearing rosters, disclosures. Private lists and internal email are not public record.
PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY	Paid media, coalition materials, recruited testimony.	Disclosure filings where required, coalition membership, and reporting. Origin is often the hardest part to reach.

The point is not that industry is absent from public view. It is that a collection aimed at one surface selects for the constituency that uses it, and that a meaningful part of what it misses sits in records anyone can pull, with the remainder behind disclosure regimes that vary by jurisdiction and behind intermediaries, consultants, counsel and private communications that no public record reaches. What this doctrine establishes is a measurement finding, not a power law: a single collection surface under-describes constituencies that do not use it, and what those constituencies then achieve is a separate question answered case by case in layer 4.

THE SURFACE-TO-STRUCTURE TEST // SIX QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU CONCLUDE

When a platform appears overwhelmingly one-sided, run these six questions before drawing any conclusion about who is organized. They force the analysis off the visible surface and onto the structure beneath it.

1 • COLLECTION BOUNDARY

What exactly was collected? Platform, query, geography, time window, ranking effects, sample size and selection method. Where size and selection are undisclosed, the percentages describe an undisclosed corpus: their scale, stability and representativeness cannot be assessed.

2 • SURFACE POPULATION

Which constituencies use this particular surface? Resident-oriented platforms under-represent corporate, governmental and professional actors as a matter of design, not of concealment, and a trade or investor surface inverts that.

Which dimension of Figure 2 is actually being claimed, and what settled it? A claim about sponsorship needs provenance. A claim about automation needs account data. Neither is settled by volume.

4 · ABSENT ACTORS

Which constituencies are missing? Developers, unions, consultants, political organizations, outside advocacy, institutional investors, trade associations.

5 · REACHABILITY OF THE GAP

For each missing constituency, is the gap reachable? Registrations, dockets, hearing rosters, campaign finance and disclosures are public record and can be read. Private groups, email lists and internal strategy are not, and saying so is part of the finding.

6 · WHAT ABSENCE CANNOT MEAN

Absence from a collection is not absence from the fight, and it is not concealment, and it is not organization elsewhere. It establishes nothing about support, activity, funding or influence. Unknown is a finding, and it is the one most often written out of a product. It is also the beginning of question 5, not a place to stop, and it comes in three kinds that should be named, because an executive who hears "unknown" will otherwise hear "not finished yet."

FIGURE 4 // THREE KINDS OF UNKNOWN, AND WHAT EACH ONE ASKS FOR NEXT

UNCOLLECTED	The relevant channel has not been examined. This is a collection task with a cost and a timeline, and the product should say so. Most unknowns in a first-pass reading are this kind.
NOT PUBLICLY OBSERVABLE	Where the answer would live is known, and the records are private, privileged or unavailable: internal strategy, email lists, retainer terms, intermediary arrangements. This is an evidentiary boundary, not a backlog, and no amount of further feed collection moves it.
INVESTIGATED, NOT ESTABLISHED	The reachable evidence was examined and did not establish the claim. This is a negative finding with a stated scope, and it is the only one of the three that can be reported as a result rather than as a gap.

The handoff, which is not a test question. Once the reading is done, CB-144 takes over: which grievance frame has the most public traction, and can a person be dropped into it. That is a question about conversion and exposure rather than about whether a surface is manufactured, and it belongs on the other side of the reading.

SO WHAT Questions 1 and 6 do most of the work, and question 5 is what keeps the answer from stopping at unknown. A product that states its collection boundary, refuses to promote absence into a finding, and then names what it will pull from the public record next will be wrong far less often than one reasoning carefully from a surface it never bounded.

A WORKED EXAMPLE // READING A PUBLISHED ANALYSIS AGAINST ITS OWN EVIDENCE

On 16 July 2026 the narrative-intelligence vendor EdgeTheory published "The Invisible Campaign Against America's AI Data Centers." It is a useful document because it is competent: the five grievance frames it identifies are sound and match frames documented independently in Prince George's County, and its underlying proposition, that narrative environments shape siting outcomes, is defensible and is not disputed here. The problems are narrower and more instructive than incompetence, and stating them precisely matters, because the loose version of this criticism commits the error the note is about.

Specifically: the analysis does not allege a common sponsor, centralized direction, or deceptive coordination. It describes a distributed narrative environment, names advocacy organizations and community groups as the actors who pick concerns up, and says in its own text that no single source

drives the conversation. Reading its title as a claim of directed operation would be a straw man, since campaign does not necessarily mean centralized operation. The defensible criticism is that the title may be read as implying more coherence than the disclosed evidence establishes, and that three of its load-bearing claims are unsupported on the page.

FIGURE 5 // THE PUBLISHED ANALYSIS, CLAIM AGAINST DISCLOSED EVIDENCE

The claim	What the document discloses	Finding
AN INVISIBLE CAMPAIGN, IN THE TITLE.	The Motley Fool leads individual outlets at 12.4 percent of volume, with nearly 30 percent from a long tail of smaller publishers. The text reads: "no single source drives this conversation."	The title may be read as implying more coherence than the disclosed evidence establishes. The distribution itself is non-diagnostic in both directions.
DISTRIBUTION FIGURES CHARACTERIZING AN OPPOSITION ENVIRONMENT.	The corpus is U.S. media, advocacy and regulatory sources "discussing data center development," 30 June to 15 July 2026. Political lean splits 35 percent least-biased, 34.6 percent left-center, 14.9 percent right-center.	Unresolved. The published method does not establish whether the charts were drawn from the full development corpus or from opposition content within it; the finding is not that a category error was committed but that the document does not let a reader rule one out. That a retail-investing publisher leads the volume is what makes the question material.
PERCENTAGES PRESENTED AS A CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.	No total item count or selection method is disclosed, across a 16-day window.	They describe an undisclosed corpus. Scale, stability and representativeness cannot be assessed from what is published.
"TWENTY-ONE OF THE TWENTY-FIVE CANCELED AI DATA CENTER PROJECTS LAST YEAR DIDN'T FALL TO ECONOMICS. THEY FELL TO NARRATIVES."	No citation, sample or method. A separate published figure resembles it: Heatmap Pro counted 25 projects canceled after local opposition in 2025, of which 21 were terminated in the second half of the year.	Unsupported as published. The resemblance is noted; no derivation can be established, and none is asserted.
"TWO TO THREE MONTHS TYPICALLY SEPARATE THE EARLIEST AMPLIFICATION OF AN OPPOSITION NARRATIVE FROM ITS APPEARANCE AS A REGULATORY FILING OR A MORATORIUM BILL."	No sample, no distribution, no method, no cases.	Unsupported, and more consequential than the preceding row. A decision-maker would act on a lag estimate.

What none of this establishes is that the opposition is organic. Diffuse, cross-partisan, long-tailed distribution argues against source concentration and against nothing else. A well-run directed effort would operate through numerous small outlets and varied messengers. Independent evidence does point toward broad alignment here, including Data Center Watch's count of opposing politicians at 55 percent Republican and 45 percent Democratic, and Heatmap Pro's finding that water use is the reason cited in more than 40 percent of contested projects. But that evidence comes from outside the media graph, which is exactly the point: the media graph could not have settled it.

THE BEST CASE AGAINST THIS READING, INCLUDING AGAINST US

- + Manufactured campaigns are real, they are designed to look grassroots, and waiting for provenance evidence can mean missing a live operation until it has already worked.
- + Diffuse national coverage is fully compatible with highly organized local fights. Blocked and delayed projects at scale are documented, and the scale has grown: the industry-aligned tracker cited below counted at least 75 projects worth about \$130 billion facing opposition in the first quarter of 2026 and 45 more worth \$68 billion in the second, with opposition groups in 49 states. Nothing here says there is no organizing to find; it says the media graph is not where you find it.
- + A vendor whose product is narrative intelligence has an incentive to find a campaign. That is worth knowing, and it is the last thing to weigh, because the gaps in Figure 5 are visible on the document's own face and would matter if the author had no incentive at all.
- + **And the symmetric point.** A firm whose product is keeping a controversy from becoming a person has a standing incentive to find over-attribution, which is the finding this note reaches. A reader should apply Figure 2 to this document as readily as to the other one, and should notice that our own case record is treated here as instrument rather than as evidence to be audited.

Concede all of it. The narrow thing that still fails is that volume cannot distinguish organized from organic, because both produce the same surface, and that a published finding has to rest on the dimension it actually claims. The signatures of manufactured coordination are reasons to investigate, not to conclude. The correction this edition makes to itself is the same correction it makes to the vendor: neither concentration nor diffusion settles structure, and an analyst who reads one as manipulation and the other as authenticity has made the same mistake twice.

WHAT READING THIS WELL REQUIRES

The four layers and the assessment matrix together define what a capability has to do, and the definition is uncomfortable for most products sold as narrative intelligence, including any our own practice would offer. Three requirements follow directly.

REQUIREMENT 1 · PROVENANCE

Every dimension of Figure 2 except the surface itself is settled by provenance: account data, payment records, contracts, distributed materials, disclosures, credible documentary reporting. A media-volume feed contains none of these and cannot produce them at any level of sophistication, because they are not in the corpus.

REQUIREMENT 2 · LAYER 3 COLLECTION

The constituencies a feed misses are often reachable in meaningful part, in public, through registrations, dockets, hearing rosters, campaign finance and disclosure filings, with the reach varying by jurisdiction and stopping at intermediaries and private communications. Reaching them is a different collection discipline from feed monitoring, run against different sources on a different cadence, and it is where the answer to "who else is organized" actually lives.

REQUIREMENT 3 · ENGAGEMENT AGAINST OUTCOME

Separating layer 3 from layer 4 requires the decision record, what was filed, who testified, what changed between drafts, how the vote moved, and then evidence that connects an intervention to the decision rather than merely preceding it. Without the first, activity gets reported as influence, which is a recurring failure in this category and an avoidable one, since the decision record is usually public. Without the second, sequence gets reported as cause, which is the subtler version of the same failure.

Stated plainly: a product that reports volume, source share, sentiment and frames is a monitoring feed. That is genuinely useful, and it is not an attribution, and the gap between the two is not a matter of model quality. It is a matter of whether the collection reaches layers 3 and 4 at all. A buyer should ask that question before asking anything about accuracy.

THE METHOD AGAINST ITSELF

Applied retrospectively to CB-143's July 2026 forecasts, this instrument caught a material grading error. A forecast about a neighborhood platform surface was graded refuted using council hearing testimony,

which is a different channel. That is the error this note exists to prevent, committed by its own author against its own case, and it survived a first pass before being caught. The grade is now unassessable, because no second comparable collection of the original channel was run, and it stays unassessable in CB-143's October 2026 edition for the same reason. It is recorded because a reading instrument that has never caught its holder is one nobody has tested.

FIGURE 6 // ANALYTIC CONFIDENCE BY CLAIM	
A one-sided public surface is a fact about the collection before it is a fact about the fight.	STRONG
Volume establishes observed output within a bounded corpus, which syndication, duplication and automation can inflate without equivalent actor activity, and settles no question about sponsorship, presentation, cause or influence.	STRONG
The published analysis does not disclose a denominator, and does not establish that its distribution charts were restricted to opposition content.	STRONG
Its causal 21-of-25 claim and its two-to-three-month lag claim are both unsupported as published.	STRONG
Institutional activity does not establish institutional influence. The two require different evidence and different records.	STRONG
Diffuse, cross-partisan distribution indicates organic alignment.	REJECTED / NON-DIAGNOSTIC
A constituency absent from a collected channel is organizing somewhere else.	REJECTED / UNKNOWN

POSTURE

FOR PRINCIPALS

- Do not let a loud, one-sided surface convince you a controversy is either fake or under control. Ask which channel it came from and which constituencies it cannot show, and ask before the briefing reaches its conclusion rather than after.
- When a briefing says a constituency is quiet, require the next sentence to say whether that is unknown or established, and by what. Acting on an assumed opponent and acting on an unknown one are different decisions with different budgets.
- Expect to be accused of manufacturing your own side, whichever side you are on. Keep your funding and disclosure record current and retrievable on short notice. It is strong documentary evidence rather than an absolute defense, and it is the part of the record an accusation cannot manufacture.

FOR FAMILY OFFICES

- In contested jurisdictions, map each constituency to the channel where it participates before an allocation, not after a vote. Registrations, dockets, hearing rosters and disclosure filings are public and are where the quiet channels surface.
- Treat a quieting public surface as a signal to look at legislative and lobbying activity, not as evidence the fight is over. Treat a loud one the same way. Neither direction of the surface is informative on its own.
- Before buying a narrative intelligence product, ask what it collects at layers 3 and 4. A feed that reports volume, source share and sentiment is a monitoring service. An attribution requires provenance the feed does not contain.

- Run the six questions before concluding which side is organized, and put the collection boundary in the product rather than in a footnote. Never let the loudest platform decide it, and never let absence become a finding.
- Name which dimension of the coordination matrix a claim rests on, and what settled it. Do not let volume stand in for provenance, and do not brief an external-direction frame up the chain because a senior figure has asserted it publicly.
- Keep channel mapping proportionate and confined to publicly recorded sources: lobbying registrations, campaign-finance records, hearing testimony and rosters, disclosed coalitions and sponsors, corporate and chamber statements, and legislative calendars. This is stakeholder mapping, not investigation of private citizens, and the distinction belongs in the tasking document.

CONFIDENCE The layer model and the assessment matrix are analytic frameworks offered as reusable method rather than as empirical claims about any case. High on the five claims graded Strong in Figure 6, each a statement about a document, a collection or an evidentiary requirement rather than about the world, and each verifiable on the face of the cited sources: the undisclosed sample, the unresolved corpus restriction, and the two uncited claims. Rejected as non-diagnostic rather than as false: that a diffuse cross-partisan distribution indicates organic alignment. Rejected: that absence from a collected channel establishes organizing elsewhere. No claim is made about how often manufactured campaigns occur, because nothing here supports a prevalence estimate, and none is made about whether opposition to data center development is organic, professionally organized, or both in different places, because this brief examined a media graph and a media graph cannot settle it. On whether unobserved channels usually decide outcomes, no grade is offered: this cluster's own worked case runs the other way, and one case supports no rate.

METHOD Revised edition. First published 16 July 2026; revised 12 September 2026 following external review, working a published vendor analysis against its own sources as a second case, assessing coordination as a matrix of independent dimensions, separating institutional engagement from demonstrated influence, and recording the grading error this instrument caught in CB-143; facts re-verified, the opposition tallies extended to the second quarter of 2026, and the layer 4 standard, the unknown taxonomy and the matrix wording revised following further external review on 06 October 2026.

SOURCES The worked example: [EdgeTheory, "The Invisible Campaign Against America's AI Data Centers"](#) (16 July 2026) for the title, the five narrative frames, the 12.4 percent leading outlet share, the nearly 30 percent long tail, the "no single source drives this conversation" sentence, the 35 / 34.6 / 14.9 percent political-lean split, the 30 June to 15 July 2026 collection window, the pipeline description naming advocacy organizations and community groups, the twenty-one of twenty-five causal statement, and the two-to-three-month lag statement, the last two carried without citation or method. The resembling published count: [Heatmap News](#) for Heatmap Pro's seven-month review finding at least 25 U.S. data center projects canceled following local opposition in 2025, against 6 in 2024 and 2 in 2023, for the finding that 21 of those 25 were terminated in the second half of 2025, and for water use as the reason cited in more than 40 percent of contested projects. Opposition composition: [Data Center Watch](#) (research timeline May 2024 to March 2025) for \$18 billion blocked and \$46 billion delayed, 28 states tracked, and the 55 percent Republican to 45 percent Democratic split among politicians taking public positions against projects; the same tracker's [Q1 2026 update](#) for at least 75 projects worth about \$130 billion and opposition groups in 49 states, and its Q2 2026 figures of 45 projects worth \$68 billion as [reported by Bloomberg \(21 September 2026\)](#). The worked case: CB-143, Prince George's County, Maryland, June to September 2026, with its primary sources listed there. Companion model: CB-144, trigger, focus and the two legibilities. Prior doctrine: CB-113 through CB-115.

Scope note: this is a general method, not a finding about any named actor, and it reaches no conclusion about whether opposition to data center development is organic, professionally organized, or both in different places. The assessment of the published analysis is confined to what appears on the face of that document and the primary counts named above; nothing here characterizes the vendor, its analysts, or any publisher, official, advocacy group or resident as an agent of any interest, the five frames it identifies are treated as sound, and its underlying proposition that narrative environments shape siting outcomes is not disputed. The relationship between the two twenty-one-of-twenty-five figures is noted as a resemblance only; no derivation is asserted and none could be established from what is published. Data Center Watch is an industry-aligned source cited for its own disclosed tally, not adopted as a neutral census. Reachability characterizations in Figure 3 describe U.S. public-record regimes and vary by jurisdiction. This is intelligence doctrine, not legal advice. A finding of undisclosed, deceptive or covert coordination requires provenance evidence a single surface rarely provides.

OBSCUREIQ INTERNAL ANALYSIS // ARCHIVE COMM-145-SURFACE-TO-STRUCTURE-READING-DOCTRINE-2026Q3 // XREF [CB-143](#) [CB-144](#) [CB-113](#) // ACCESS PUBLIC · RELEASED ON PUBLICATION · REVISED 06 OCT 2026