



Lawrence B. Somers  
Deputy General Counsel

Mailing Address:  
NCRH 20 / P.O. Box 1551  
Raleigh, NC 27602

o: 919.546.6722  
f: 919.546.2694

bo.somers@duke-energy.com

March 28, 2019

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

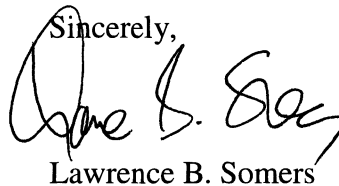
M. Lynn Jarvis  
Chief Clerk  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4325 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

**RE: Duke Energy Progress, LLC Western Carolinas Modernization  
Project Annual Progress Report  
Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089**

Dear Ms. Jarvis:

Pursuant to the Commission's March 28, 2016 *Order Granting Application in Part, with Conditions, and Denying Application in Part* (the "Order"), I enclose the Annual Progress Report of Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP") for the two 280 MW combined cycle natural gas-fueled, with fuel oil backup, electric generating units at the Company's Asheville Steam Electric Generating Plant in Buncombe County, for filing in connection with this matter. In compliance with ordering paragraph No. 5 of the Order, DEP reports on the progress of construction activities and the current cost estimate. In compliance with ordering paragraph No. 6 of the Order, DEP reports accomplishments to date on efforts to work with customers in the Western Region to reduce peak load through demand-side management, energy efficiency and other measures and on DEP's efforts to site solar and storage capacity in the Western Region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
  
Lawrence B. Somers

Enclosure

cc: Parties of Record

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Duke Energy Progress, LLC  
Western Carolinas Modernization Project  
Annual Progress Report for the Asheville Combined Cycle Project and Community  
Engagement for Demand-Side Management, Energy Efficiency and Technology  
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March 28, 2019

**I. Construction**

The Asheville Combined Cycle Project ("ACC Project") is a nominal 560 MW dual-fuel generation facility construction project comprised of two separate 1x1 combined cycle units (280 MW each) authorized to be constructed and placed in service by the end of 2019 as a component of the larger Western Carolinas Modernization Project ("WCMP"). Progress on the ACC Project over the past year has focused on contract execution, completion of engineering, procurement activities for balance of plant equipment, remaining permitting activities, and construction of the plant.

On August 3, 2016, Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP") executed an Engineering, Procurement and Construction Agreement with CB&I North Carolina, Inc. ("CB&I") to design, engineer, and procure balance of plant equipment, and construct the new generating facility, including incorporation and installation of DEP-furnished major equipment (turbines, heat recovery steam generators, generator step-up transformers, and control systems). In 2018, CB&I was acquired by McDermott. McDermott will fulfill the original CB&I contract requirements. Separately, on August 25, 2016, DEP executed an On-Site Construction Services Agreement with Glover Construction Company, Incorporated ("Glover") to complete site earthwork activities required to prepare the site for construction of the new combined cycle generation facility. These site earthwork activities include decommissioning of the site's 1982 Ash Basin Dam, clearing and grading of areas for material laydown, installation of storm water drainage and erosion/sedimentation control features, placement and compaction of suitable fill material to prepare for construction, and demolition of certain structures and objects. Since execution of these agreements, progress on these design, engineering, procurement, site prep, and planning activities has been maintained and, as a result, project milestone dates are still on track to achieve targeted completion by the end of 2019. A summary of key project milestone dates, including their current status are provided in Attachment A to this report.

DEP continues to monitor actual expenditures and forecast the project's cost at completion on a monthly basis. At this point in time, the project's cost at completion is forecasted to be within the previously authorized and stated \$893.2 million as filed in DEP's CPCN application and found to be appropriate by the Commission in its CPCN Order. This authorized estimate value includes all required engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning costs as well as required oversight costs from DEP as owner, transmission interconnect costs, and allowance for funds used during construction ("AFUDC").

Construction of underground, civil and foundation activities are essentially complete. Major Equipment (CTs, STs, HRSGs, GSUs) has been set. Overall plant construction is approximately 60% complete. Structural steel, equipment, piping, electrical installation and subcontract work are in progress. In the remainder of 2019, DEP will continue to work with McDermott, the major equipment suppliers, and other key stakeholders to continue

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Engagement for Demand-Side Management, Energy Efficiency and Technology  
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March 28, 2019

construction and commissioning of the facility. Deliveries of Major Equipment to the site are complete. The DEP commissioning team has mobilized to the site and commissioning of systems and equipment is underway.

**II. Community Engagement: Marketing, Outreach, Organization, and Goals**

Since May 2016, community engagement associated with the Western Carolinas Modernization Project has largely been achieved through a partnership between the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, and Duke Energy. A diverse group of community leaders known as the Energy Innovation Task Force (“EITF”) was formed at that time to help advise the City, County, and Duke Energy on the best, most effective ways to mitigate the need for a future peaking power plant and support the community’s goal of achieving a cleaner, smarter, and affordable energy future. The results achieved through this unprecedented partnership have progressively increased over the past three years.

In 2018 the work of the EITF was largely focused on executing the work plan that was developed in support of achieving those goals. Following are significant activities and accomplishments for 2018:

1. **Workplan:** The workplan for 2018 was developed and approved by the EITF in January.
2. **Blue Horizons Project:** In early spring, the Blue Horizons Project community engagement campaign was launched. The campaign was developed to establish a common voice to represent the objectives and activities of the EITF in a way the community can relate to and understand. Some of the key elements of the campaign that were established are as follows:
  - a. Created a web site (<https://bluehorizonsproject.com/>) that provides useful information and links for customers and other interested people to learn how they can support the goals and objectives of the EITF partnership.
  - b. A project manager was hired by the Green Built Alliance, a local non-profit focused on the promotion of green building, to coordinate campaign activities. The position is being funded by the City and County.
  - c. A \$25,000 grant was secured from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina to fund marketing and outreach activities.
  - d. Collateral materials were developed to distribute at local meetings and events to promote the Blue Horizons Project campaign and the programs and projects being promoted through the campaign.

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March 28, 2019

- e. Duke Energy promotional materials were co-branded with the Blue Horizons Project to help customers and community members connect Duke Energy programs with the priorities of the Blue Horizons Project.
  - f. Representatives of the EITF have participated in numerous events over the past year to promote the Blue Horizons Project and assist attendees with actions they can take to support its objectives. Goals were established to drive EITF involvement in the events.
3. **Clean Energy Goals:** In late 2018 both Asheville and Buncombe County passed 100% clean/renewable energy goals, joining several other local governments in North Carolina that have set similar goals. The goals require that both the City and County achieve the 100% targets for operations by 2030, and for all homes and businesses by 2042. The partnership between the City, County, and Duke Energy that has been established through the EITF will be critical to enable achievement of the very ambitious goals that have been set. Considering the 100% goals set by the City and County, the EITF determined that its objectives should be updated to reflect achievement of the goals.
4. **Rocky Mountain Institute eLab Accelerator:** To aid in the development of the updated objectives, a representative from the EITF leadership group will be joining a team comprised of members from other local governments, the Environmental Defense Fund, and Duke Energy, at the Rocky Mountain Institute's eLab Accelerator event which will be held beginning April 30, 2019. Accelerator is a highly facilitated event which enables teams of diverse stakeholders to come together to develop solutions to address energy-related challenges and opportunities. The framework for the EITF was conceived at the Accelerator event held in 2016. The 2019 Accelerator event promises to enable development of a similar framework that can be applied across NC to drive and expedite the solutions that will be needed to achieve the goals that have been set.

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 March 28, 2019

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Mar 28 2019

**5. Goal status/results for 2018:**

Community Engagement		
Goal	Progress	Next Steps
Conduct a minimum of 25 formal community conversations about the Blue Horizons Project. Community meetings will be held throughout Asheville and Buncombe County, including in racially and economically diverse neighborhoods.	Presented at 37 events and tabled at 27 community events as of 12/13/18.	Continue to attend and host public community meetings.
		Continue to identify areas of Buncombe County that are racially and economically diverse to hold events.
Hold a minimum of 6 small-medium business seminars on programs and offerings to reduce energy use.	3 sessions held on 7/31/18. Asheville workplace challenge efforts underway - following up with past participants.	We have rethought strategy moving forward. Go to where businesses are already gathering.
We will endeavor to be inclusive, including conscious effort to be racially and economically inclusive, in our partnerships and planning work, and to focus on lowering energy costs for the lower-income households most burdened by utility costs.	Racial Equity training in March 2018; Implicit Bias training in July 2018. Engaged Lucia Daugherty as Equity Consultant for the Energy Upgrade Program to help ensure the program's activities achieve equity.	Creation of Community Advisory group to ensure continuous feedback on equitable practices and engagement for Upgrade Program.

Energy Efficiency and Demand Management		
Goal	Progress	Next Steps
EnergyWise Home = 1,000 new measures installed over 2 years. 300 in 2018 and 700 in 2019. (This is	2,567 customers enrolled in 2018.	Continue to promote and look for partnerships with multi-family developers.

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 Western Carolinas Modernization Project  
 Annual Progress Report for the Asheville Combined Cycle Project and Community  
 Engagement for Demand-Side Management, Energy Efficiency and Technology  
 Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089  
 March 28, 2019

in addition to the 1500 planned additions included in DEP's plan).		
EnergyWise Business = 100 new businesses signed up annually.	895 enrolled in 2018.	Complete current orders on the remaining customers and continue to promote.
SmartSaver = 50 new businesses or 100 new measures installed.	65,414 new measures installed (lighting, HVAC, food service equipment).	
Neighborhood Energy Saver = 75% of residents within the selected geographic area (approx. 2000 households).	Not as successful as hoped. Only 36% of residents participated. Barriers to success include: lack of community conversations around energy, racism, lack of community center place and leaders to facilitate adoption.	Next time, need to identify 2-3 areas and then bring them to the table to see which ones people think will be most successful.
Pilot project: Cold Climate Heat Pump = 4 retrofits and 4 new construction installations.	Funding secured, ready to go, partners on board. Habitat for Humanity plans fell through.  Implementation won't happen for 2018-2019 winter.	Potential to install 4 retrofit units in EUP client homes through CAO with Duke funding.
Energy Savers Network = 200+ households annually to receive basic retrofits with the intent to scale up over time.	134 so far as of 12/13/18 22 SSCF funded ESN clients served in 2018.	200 is a stretch goal. 150 anticipated by end of 2018.
Community Action Opportunities deep retrofits = 15 deep retrofits.	12 SSCF funded CAO clients served as of 12/13/18	12 for 2018 final

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 Annual Progress Report for the Asheville Combined Cycle Project and Community  
 Engagement for Demand-Side Management, Energy Efficiency and Technology  
 Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089  
 March 28, 2019

Workforce development and trade partners		
Goal	Progress	Next Steps
Trade Ally Growth = 2x increase in trade ally participation.	Robert Sipes led trade ally lunch and learn on 11/28/18.	After pilot, review lessons learned. Strategy should be to go to individual contractor offices for one-on-one conversations.
Support training partnerships to build a stronger workforce for energy efficiency and renewable sectors, especially within lower income communities with high unemployment and underemployment.	Jonathan Gach worked with Green Opportunities YouthBuild Program in September 2018 to help people become energy auditors. Also in talks with AB Tech and UCD. HBA training on Green Building on 12/12/18. Contractors statewide will have to take continuing education starting in 2019/2020 just like architects and engineers.	Have energy-efficiency training materials developed, and need to figure out where to deliver the training. Curriculum is from NCBPA, Duke University, and Green Built Alliance.

Renewables		
Goal	Progress	Next Steps
Raise awareness of new state incentives and declining costs of solar to increase distributed generation (residential and commercial) solar installations in Buncombe County by 50% year to year.	Three Blue Horizons social media posts about Duke Energy's solar rebates; renewables page with rebate information and solar installers directory on bluehorizonsproject.com.	Gather installation data from Duke and solar installers.
Support creation of a	None of these programs can be subsidized by	On hold.



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 Annual Progress Report for the Asheville Combined Cycle Project and Community  
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 Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089  
 March 28, 2019

Community Solar project in Buncombe County to enable participation of residents who do not own property that can accommodate solar.	ratepayers and, as a result, the proposed community solar programs aren't financially attractive.	
Convene meetings with city and county planning officials to explore and adopt strategies to significantly reduce permitting and other soft costs for solar. Possible example: waive requirement for engineering report (10% of project cost) for solar installations on stick-built homes built within the past 20 years.	The City of Asheville achieved gold SolSmart designation 5/1/18.	City and county to discuss waiving engineering report requirement.  Conversation needed between inspections department and some local solar installers

Local Government		
Goal	Progress	Next Steps
Buncombe County Programs = Complete solar feasibility study, define kWh reductions once audits to community facilities are complete. Develop plans to meet 100% renewable goal for county facilities and operations by 2030.	City and County contracted with the Cadmus Group to draft a renewable energy roadmap. Jen Weiss from Nicholson School of Environment also consulting.	Community engagement visioning process.
City of Asheville Program Goals = Energy efficiency upgrades to city facilities (HVAC, lighting), solar installation on ART Station, review of building	1. Energy Audits conducted on 4 COA facilities. Energy Conservation Measures reviewed and prioritized.	1. Install solar panels on ART Station. Will happen in tandem with renovation of ART Station. 65 kW system is planned to go on the



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 March 28, 2019

audits to determine next investments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. HVAC upgrades have taken place at 3 facilities.</li> <li>3. LED upgrades at 3 facilities.</li> <li>4. Energy audits on select water treatment facilities.</li> <li>5. Submitted pre-interconnection request with Duke Energy for Mills River Water Treatment Plant.</li> </ol>	<p>south side of the bus canopy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Install solar hot water system at Fire Station #7 in North Asheville.</li> <li>3. Upgrade HVAC system at Mills River Water Treatment Plant.</li> <li>4. Water facilities and pumping are the largest emitters of carbon in the city. City spends \$832K on water annually.</li> </ol>
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Duke Energy		
Goal	Progress	Next Steps
Continue to explore new programs, pilot programs, and other offerings for the community.	Low-income pay for performance pilot program approved for Buncombe County and Asheville.	Explore other community offerings.
Advance work at Duke Energy to better integrate and cross-promote programs to streamline the customer experience.	Co-branding with Blue Horizons Project occurred in September. Promotion of programs through Blue Horizons simplifies customer experience.	Continue to encourage cross-promotion where possible to simplify and streamline customer experience.
AMI deployment.	On track to complete DEP-West rollout in mid-2019.	
Significant deployment of battery storage to reduce peak and enhance grid management and services.	Significant deployment of battery storage = 19 MW moving forward.	

### III. Programs: Energy Efficiency and Demand-Side Management

Focus and efforts associated with existing and new programs offered by the convening partners of the EITF continued in 2018. Notable accomplishments in this area were as follows:

1. **EnergyWise:** The EnergyWise Home and Business programs continue to be priority areas to drive peak demand reductions in the region. As evidenced in the goal results, performance on this front has been strong. Following are some of the key drivers of this success:
  - a. **Community advocacy:** Several organizations, including those known for their advocacy of clean and sustainable energy solutions, have visibly and tangibly advocated for local home and business participation in EnergyWise. This grass roots support has had both direct and indirect positive impacts on results that have been achieved. It has increased awareness that the benefits of the programs go far beyond the financial incentives that are offered and it has made Duke Energy's marketing and sales efforts more effective as a result.
  - b. **Duke Energy Marketing/Sales:** Aggressive efforts to encourage EnergyWise participation have continued. Co-branding with the Blue Horizons Project has helped make third-party advocacy more effective. A continuation of door-to-door campaigning has also proven to be effective.
  - c. **Multi-Family/Rental Properties:** A focused effort has been undertaken to pursue multi-family and rental properties, which has been a relatively underperforming segment for EnergyWise participation. Modifications to the load control switches have been made to enable installation in these applications, and work is underway to engage directly with landlords to encourage participation for their properties.
2. **Pay for Performance Pilot:** In December 2018, the NCUC approved the Pay for Performance program to be piloted in the Asheville/Buncombe County area. The program was initially proposed during a joint workshop held between EITF and Duke Energy representatives and facilitated by RMI. Successful implementation of the pilot is a top priority for Duke Energy and the EITF in 2019.
3. **Southeast Sustainable Communities Fund ("SSCF") Grant:** The grant from the SSCF is in its second year of implementation of the Energy Upgrade Program,

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Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089  
March 28, 2019

which is a weatherization and energy efficiency program targeted at low-income residents. Through the EITF partnership, the City, County, and Duke Energy are working together to ensure successful execution of this program. The recently approved pay for performance pilot is being leveraged by the Energy Upgrade Program contractor, Green Built Alliance, to increase the amount of energy efficiency measures installed in each home. The first year of the program provided weatherization services to thirty-one homes.

4. **Small Business Energy Savers and Smart Saver Business Programs:** Duke Energy has worked in partnership with the EITF to promote these two important energy efficiency programs. There have already been several success stories of how the partnership has enabled connections that otherwise wouldn't have happened. As an example, when a business leader, who also chairs a local philanthropic board, became aware of the Blue Horizons Project, he was inspired to create a program to enable small local churches to change out their lighting to more energy efficient LED's. This partnership between the Asheville Merchants Fund, WNC Community Foundation, The Creation Care Alliance, Lime Energy, and Duke Energy enabled the churches to reduce their energy use and achieve a return on their investment much more quickly than they could have otherwise. A summary of the results achieved is as follows:

- 6 Congregations participated (assessments were performed for a total of 15 congregations)
- 2100 Congregational members reached
- \$205 average monthly savings per faith community
- \$103,204 total value of LED lighting upgrades delivered
- 197,276 kWh saved (equivalent of annual electric use for 24 homes)

One of the congregations that participated in the program created the banner pictured below to express their appreciation for the program.



#### IV. Technology: Solar, Storage and Microgrid Development

1. **Mt. Sterling Microgrid:** In the fall of 2018, Duke Energy disconnected the customer's facility from the power grid and decommissioned and removed the 12.47kV Waterville Village Feeder. The Mt. Sterling Microgrid is reliably serving the customer's facility with 100% renewable energy and battery storage and is working as intended.
  
2. **Solar PV:** After thorough review of siting options in the Western Carolinas, Duke Energy plans to develop utility scale solar PV at the following sites to meet the 15 MW commitment:
  - a. Hot Springs (CPCN application pending in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1185)
    - Madison County
    - Approximate Capacity – 2 MW
    - Anticipated In-Service Date – 2020
  - b. Buncombe County Landfill
    - Buncombe County
    - Approximate Capacity – 3 to 4 MW
    - Anticipated In-Service Date – 2020
  - c. Asheville Plant Site
    - Buncombe County
    - Approximate Capacity – 9 to 10 MW
    - Anticipated In-Service Date – 2023

Due to DEP's current Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards ("REPS") compliance status, the unique nature of the WCMP, small size of the solar facilities, and interest from customers in procuring local Renewable Energy Certificates ("RECs"), DEP is considering selling the RECs to local commercial, industrial, institutional, or municipal customers in the Western Carolinas region to support their renewable goals and objectives. If the RECs are not able to be sold to customers in the region, DEP could then request approval to use the RECs for future compliance with the REPS program.

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Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089  
March 28, 2019

3. **Utility Scale Storage:** As stated in DEP’s 2017 WCMP Annual Progress Report, DEP identified multiple opportunities to deploy storage in the form of batteries throughout the region, specifically to meet the Commission’s order to deploy at least 5 MW of energy storage in the DEP-West region and support the avoidance or deferral of the contingent natural gas-fired Combustion Turbine. For example, DEP is requesting Commission approval to deploy a grid-connected microgrid, which includes an approximately 4 MW battery as part of the Hot Springs Microgrid CPCN, Docket No. E-2, Sub 1185. If approved, the Microgrid will provide energy, capacity, and ancillary services to all DEP customers and the broader grid while also benefiting the Town of Hot Springs, should their radial distribution feeder experience an outage. Additionally, another 9 MW battery storage project is under development in Buncombe County to provide essential reliability services such as frequency regulation and renewable integration. These battery storage projects have received favorable support from the local community and are anticipated to be in-service by early 2020.

In DEP’s 2018 Integrated Resource Plan, the company included a placeholder for 140 MW of battery storage, of which approximately 50 MW are planned to be deployed in the Western Carolinas. These grid-connected battery storage projects are intended to provide solutions for the transmission and distribution systems with the possibility of simultaneously providing benefits to DEP’s generation resource portfolio. Since the utility is ultimately responsible for system reliability, DEP is the natural owner and operator of battery storage, which supports this critical objective for its customers.

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 Engagement for Demand-Side Management, Energy Efficiency and Technology  
 Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089  
 March 28, 2019

**ATTACHMENT A - Project Milestone Dates**

Milestone	EPC Baseline (Nov. 2017)	Current Plan
Receipt of Air Permit	01/09/2017	01/09/2017(A)
82 Basin Dam Decommissioning	10/31/2017	11/29/2017(A)
Site Prep/Fill Completion	10/31/2017	12/06/2017(A)
Full Notice to Proceed ("FNTP") to EPC	10/23/2017	10/23/2017(A)
M&R Station In- Service (Gas Available - PSNC)	03/15/2019	03/2/2019 (A)
Backfeed	02/16/2019	04/07/2019
EPC Contractor Mechanical Completion	06/15/2019	09/02/2019
Commercial Operation Date	11/15/2019	11/15/2019

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of Duke Energy Progress, LLC's Annual Progress Report, in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089, has been served by electronic mail, hand delivery or by depositing a copy in the United States mail, postage prepaid to the following parties:

David Drooz  
Public Staff  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4326 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300  
david.drooz@psncuc.nc.gov

Gudrun Thompson  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
601 W. Rosemary Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2356  
gthompson@selcnc.org

John Runkle  
Counsel for NC WARN  
2121 Damascus Church Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
jrunkle@pricecreek.com

Austin D. Gerken, Jr.  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
22 S. Pack Square, Suite 700  
Asheville, NC 28801  
djgerken@selcnc.org

Jim Warren  
NC Waste Awareness & Reduction Network  
PO Box 61051  
Durham, NC 27715-1051  
ncwarn@ncwarn.org

Peter H. Ledford  
NC Sustainable Energy Association  
4800 Six Forks Road, Suite 300  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
peter@energync.org

Scott Carver  
LS Power Development, LLC  
One Tower Center, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
scarver@lspower.com

Ralph McDonald  
Bailey & Dixon, L.L.P.  
Post Office Box 1351  
Raleigh, NC 27602-1351  
rmcdonald@bdixon.com

Sharon Miller  
Carolina Utility Customer Association  
1708 Trawick Road, Suite 210  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
smiller@cucainc.org

Robert Page  
Crisp, Page & Currin, LLP  
410 Barrett Dr., Suite 205  
Raleigh, NC 27609-6622  
rpage@cpclaw.com

Grant Millin  
48 Riceville Road, B314  
Asheville, NC 28805  
grantmillin@gmail.com

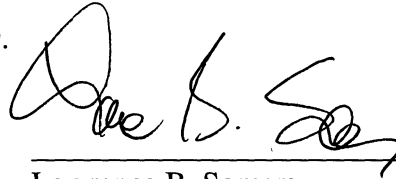


Richard Fireman  
374 Laughing River Road  
Mars Hill, NC 28754  
firepeople@main.nc.us

Brad Rouse  
3 Stegall Lane  
Asheville, NC 28805  
brouse\_invest@yahoo.com

Daniel Higgins  
Burns Day and Presnell, P.A.  
PO Box 10867  
Raleigh, NC 27605  
dhiggins@bdppa.com

This is the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.



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Lawrence B. Somers  
Deputy General Counsel  
Duke Energy Corporation  
P.O. Box 1551/NCRH 20  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602  
Tel 919.546.6722  
[bo.somers@duke-energy.com](mailto:bo.somers@duke-energy.com)