

From: Mark Childrey
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 8:08 PM
To: Statements
Subject: Statement of Position Submitted by Mark Childrey

Statement of Position Submitted

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Docket

E-2 Sub 1219

Message

I am writing regarding a recent news story on Spectrum News Carolina that Duke Energy is seeking an increase of 6.7 percent for their residential customers. My position and request of the Utilities Commission, as a longtime Duke Energy residential customer, is to deny this request. Based on the news report, in addition to generating an additional \$445 million in revenue for Duke, the company says some of the money will go toward coal ash cleanup. I live in Rockingham County where the coal ash spilled into the Dan River. It is 15 miles from my home. I'm glad to Duke cleaned up their spill. And I'm glad they have to clean up the other ash basins around the state. But I do not believe that North Carolina consumers should be required to help pay the costs to clean it up while Duke has been operating at a profit for years. As you know, through one purchase after another, Duke has become the nation's largest electric utility. And even through continuous purchases and dealing with coal ash, the company still has a bundle of money set aside. Duke knew years ago that it would eventually have to deal with disposing of the coal ash basins, yet put it off day after day and year after year. Our state, like so many others, has struggled over the years with job losses and the economic downturn. Not to mention the many people on fixed incomes through job losses, minimum wage or low wage jobs, and of course the sick and the elderly. These are the people (including myself, drawing a pension) who will help to maintain Duke's profits. And that's not fair. Then in a year or so, Duke will be back yet again (even if they get a rate increase this time) asking for more money while still needing to clean up the coal ash. So please, I ask the Commission to take these factors under consideration, then deny Duke Energy's request to raise residential rates. Give the consumers a break.