

**BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1230**

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY OF FOREST BRADLEY-WRIGHT

ON BEHALF OF

**NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE CENTER,
NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING COALITION, AND
SOUTHERN ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY**

1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Commission today. I am
2 Forest Bradley-Wright, Energy Efficiency Director for the Southern Alliance for Clean
3 Energy, also representing the NC Justice Center and NC Housing Coalition.

4 I covered six topics in my pre-filed testimony: Duke's 2019 efficiency portfolio
5 performance, its 2021 forecast showing declining savings, progress at the Collaborative,
6 efficiency for low-income customers, and ways that the coronavirus pandemic is both
7 accelerating the need for energy efficiency and also creating challenges for program
8 delivery. I also address the interplay between savings from the Company's DSM/EE
9 programs and other public policy.

10 DEC remains a regional leader in overall efficiency savings. In 2019, the
11 Company delivered customers \$437 million dollars in net present value benefit. Savings
12 from low-income efficiency were 30% higher than in 2018. However, the Company's
13 overall savings declined slightly in 2019, falling below 1% annual savings (as a
14 percentage of prior-year retail sales). Unfortunately, a further 10% decline is projected
15 for 2021. In my testimony, I make several suggestions that could help reverse this trend
16 and ensure efficiency programs reach those who need them most.

1 To address the projected savings declines, the Commission, Staff, and
2 stakeholders must have a clear understanding of the underlying factors causing them.
3 Therefore, I first recommend that the Commission direct Duke to provide specific
4 documentation explaining any projected savings declines in future DSM/EE Rider filings,
5 while also showing what steps are being taken to prevent them.

6 Second, I recommend that the Commission affirmatively endorse the goal of
7 achieving higher savings for low-income customers, supported by increased budgets, and
8 call upon the Company to submit a plan to the Commission to both increase total low-
9 income efficiency savings overall and deliver deep efficiency savings to customers who
10 struggle with high energy burdens.

11 Third, I recommend that the Commission acknowledge the urgent need to include
12 energy efficiency in the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic. I also suggest that
13 Duke be directed to present a plan to increase efficiency assistance to customers suffering
14 from the current economic downturn and address program delivery challenges brought on
15 by the pandemic.

16 Fourth, I describe continued progress at the Collaborative over the past year,
17 including our work to support Duke in expanding energy efficiency savings for low-
18 income customers. I also describe how our Portfolio Level Opportunities and Challenges
19 Summary Report built a foundation for our ongoing effort to aid Duke in achieving
20 higher overall savings through new programs and delivery channels. In its 2019 Order,
21 the Commission concluded "that it would be helpful to have the Collaborative examine
22 the reasons for Duke's forecasted savings decline, and explore options for preventing or
23 correcting a decline in future DSM/EE savings. To this end, I recommend that members
24 of the Collaborative work together with Duke staff to prepare a report in advance of

1 DEC's next DSM/EE Recovery Rider filing that would help Duke to achieve future
2 savings at or above the 1% savings level the Company reported in 2017 and 2018, but
3 narrowly missed in 2019.

4 Finally, I discuss a number of key policy and regulatory matters relating to the
5 Company's energy savings achievements and efforts to cut carbon emissions in North
6 Carolina. Specifically, my testimony addresses integrated resource planning, program
7 applications, performance incentive mechanism review, rate cases, and the Duke Energy
8 Progress DSM/EE Rider.

9 I thank the Commission for its continued support for energy efficiency and look
10 forward to continuing to work with you, the Company, and the Collaborative as we build
11 on considerable success to date and strive to achieve even more savings in future years.

12 This concludes my summary.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the parties of record on the service list have been served with the Summary of Testimony of Forest Bradley-Wright on Behalf of the North Carolina Justice Center, North Carolina Housing Coalition, and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy either by electronic mail or by deposit in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid.

This the 9th day of June, 2020.

s/ David L. Neal

David L. Neal