## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 140

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## BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities - 2014

ORDER ESTABLISHING AVOIDED COST RATES FOR DEC AND DEP

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On December 17, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Establishing Standard Rates and Contract Terms for Qualifying Facilities (Order). In its Order, the Commission directed Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), and Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion North Carolina Power (DNCP), (collectively, Utilities), "to file new versions of their rate schedules and standard contracts, in compliance with this Order, to become effective 15 days after the filing date unless specific objections as to the accuracy of the calculations and conformity to the decisions herein are filed within that 15-day period."

On February 2, 2016, pursuant to an extension of time granted on January 15, 2016, DEC and DEP made the required compliance filings. Pursuant to the Order, the rates would become effective on February 17, 2016 unless specific objections were filed on or before that date. Also, on February 2, 2016, counsel for DEC and DEP filed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Utilities and the Public Staff in Support of Recalculation of Avoided Cost Rates.

On February 17, 2016, North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) filed a Motion for Extension of Time requesting that the Commission extend the deadline for parties to file specific objections as to the accuracy of the calculations and conformity with the Order until February 25, 2016. By Order dated February 18, 2016, the Commission granted the extension.

On February 23, 2016, NCSEA filed General Comments regarding the MOU.

Also, on February 23, 2016, counsel for DEC and DEP submitted a letter which detailed an agreement reached between DEC, DEP, NCSEA, the Public Staff and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (Party or Parties). The letter stated that the Parties had reached consensus resolution on the avoided costs rates and that none of the Parties intended to file objections to the revised avoided cost rates. As a result of the agreement, DEC and DEP filed newly revised avoided cost rates with the Commission on February 23, 2016.

The Order permits the avoided cost rates to become effective on March 9, 2016 if no objections have been filed before that date. In their February 23, 2016 filing, however, DEC and DEP indicated that they preferred for the revised rates and schedules to become effective on March 1, 2016. Because their preferred effective date differs from the effective date permitted by the Order, the Commission shall treat the February 23, 2016 filing as a rate revision filing and a motion to change the date that the revised rates and schedules would become effective.

After carefully considering the filings detailed above and the record proper, the Presiding Commissioner hereby finds and concludes that:

1. No objections to the revised avoided cost rates and schedules have been filed;

2. No objections to the March 1, 2016 effective date have been filed;

3. In accordance with the Order, the revised avoided cost rates and schedules are deemed effective; and,

4. Good cause exists to change the effective date of the revised avoided cost rates and schedules from March 9, 2016 to March 1, 2016.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the <u>10<sup>th</sup></u> day of March, 2016.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Paige J. Morris, Deputy Clerk