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RICHARD EVERT
108 Emerald Circle, Durham NC 27713-2413

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North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-4300

Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

Re: Docket No. E-2 Sub 1219

Dear Commissioners:

Please accept this comment in opposition to the Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP") for Adjustment of Rates and Charges Applicable to Electric Service in North Carolina, Docket No. E-2 Sub 1219 (the "Application") now pending before the North Carolina Utilities Commission (the "Commission").

The people of North Carolina, through their elected representatives, have created the Commission to serve as a counterbalance to the monopoly power of DEP. We the ratepayers have no ability to affect DEP's business practices, investment policies, and charges. Only the Commission can do that. Therefore, I urge the Commission to reject the Application in order to:

Hold DEP accountable for its irresponsible and unsafe handling of toxic wastes.

Much of the proposed rate hike is earmarked for cleaning up coal ash at sites in Asheville, Cape Fear, H.F. Lee, Mayo, Robinson, Roxboro, Sutton, and Weatherspoon. DEP must be made to understand that it cannot simply shift the financial consequences of its bad decisions to the public. The public has already suffered – and continues to suffer – from DEP's environmental depredations. It is outrageous for DEP to make the public foot the bill as well.

Prevent DEP from making further investments in dirty energy. If the Application is granted, DEP would use a substantial portion of its increased rate revenue to invest in coal power plants, as well as a new gas plant in Asheville. Such continued investment in fossil fuel infrastructure as utterly inimical to North Carolina's and the Nation's interest in combatting climate change.

Require DEP to work with communities to develop a grid improvement plan. The Application seeks a deferral of billions of dollars for a sketchy and incoherent grid improvement plan. The Commission should reject the requested deferral and require DEP to work transparently with stakeholders to formulate a responsible plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Evert

