

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 151

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Proceeding to Select the Independent)	ORDER APPROVING THE
Administrator of the CPRE Program)	INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR
)	OF THE CPRE PROGRAM

BY THE COMMISSION: On November 21, 2017, pursuant to Commission Rule R8-71(d)(1), the Commission issued an Order establishing this proceeding to select the Independent Administrator of the Competitive Procurement of Renewable Energy (CPRE) Program, which was created by the enactment of G.S. 62-110.8. That Order allowed the parties of record in Docket No. E-100, Sub 150 to participate in this proceeding without the need to file petitions to intervene, including the North Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance (NCCEBA), the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA), and the North Carolina Utilities Commission-Public Staff (Public Staff).

On December 8, 2017, pursuant to Ordering Paragraph One of the Commission's November 21 Order, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC) and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP) (together, Duke), filed their initial comments and recommendation that the Commission select Accion Group, LLC (Accion), as the Independent Administrator of the CPRE Program. Duke's filing included background on the CPRE Program and details on Duke's due diligence efforts to identify candidates to serve as Independent Administrator of the CPRE Program. Duke states that this process included developing a scope of work, interviewing Accion and three other candidate firms, and seeking performance feedback and reviews from Duke's peer utilities, among other reference sources. Duke further states that due to the truncated timeframe of required filings, after the initial interviews, Duke focused on Accion as the lead candidate and did not solicit proposals from the other candidate firms that were initially interviewed; however, Accion was not informed that it was the only candidate firm invited to make a formal proposal, which was included as an attachment to Duke's filing.

In support of its recommendation, Duke states that Accion maintains a nationwide practice conducting utility solicitations, having participated in over 94 solicitations during the past 13 years involving a wide variety of technologies, fuel sources, and terms. Duke further states that Accion has served as independent evaluator, independent monitor, or independent observer to a number of state commissions and utilities in jurisdictions that include Georgia, Colorado, and California. Duke also described Accion's background and experience in evaluating capacity and energy supply options in these other states, including providing independent expertise in the evaluation of bids and the design and

development of sophisticated competitive procurement websites that provide the equal access to information and the transparency required by Commission Rule R8-71. Duke further states that Accion's proposed budgets are reasonable inasmuch as they are in line with the charges for similar work in other states and Duke's previous experience for similar services. Finally, Duke states that Accion made the disclosures required by Commission Rule R8-71(d)(2), and that no conflict of interest exists that would affect Accion's independence or ability to perform the Independent Administrator role in an unbiased manner. Therefore, Duke requests that the Commission approve Accion as the third-party Independent Administrator of the CPRE Program.

On December 19, 2017, NCCEBA filed reply comments, stating that NCCEBA has no objection to Duke's recommendation of Accion as the Independent Administrator of the CPRE Program.

On December 21, 2017, the Public Staff filed reply comments, stating that the Public Staff reviewed Duke's initial comments and recommendation and does not take exception with the process followed by Duke in identifying and evaluating candidate firms with experience monitoring and supporting competitive procurement programs for electric utilities. The Public Staff further states that it is satisfied with Duke's due diligence in evaluating Accion's qualifications and experience. The Public Staff also summarized its own "high-level survey" of firms that provide the type of services sought in the Independent Administrator, which included contacting the staff of the Georgia Public Service Commission and two meetings with Accion to discuss its qualifications and experience. Based upon this effort, the Public Staff states that Accion has the experience and resources to meet the requirements of the Independent Administrator of the CPRE Program and that the Public Staff does not object to Duke's recommendation. Finally, the Public Staff states that it believes that the Commission has sufficient information to select an Independent Administrator, but a presentation of Accion's skills and qualifications may be informative for the Commission and other parties and useful for the Commission's consideration.

On December 22, 2017, NCSEA filed a letter in lieu of reply comments, informing the Commission that NCSEA has no objection to Duke's recommendation that Accion serve as the Independent Administrator of the CPRE Program.

No other party filed comments, and no additional interested persons have sought to intervene in this proceeding.

The Commission has carefully considered Duke's initial comments and recommendation, including Duke's Solicitation Scope of Work and Accion's proposal, which were attached to Duke's initial comments and recommendation, and the comments of the parties filed in this proceeding. Based upon the foregoing, and pursuant to

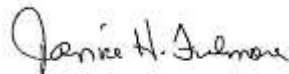
G.S. 62-110.8(d), the Commission finds good cause to approve Accion as the Independent Administrator of the CPRE Program.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 9th day of January, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Janice H. Fulmore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk