

1 PLACE: Via Videoconference
2 DATE: Monday, April 19, 2021
3 TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 8:26 p.m.
4 DOCKET NO: E-100, Sub 165
5 BEFORE: Commissioner Daniel G. Clodfelter, Presiding
6 Chair Charlotte A. Mitchell
7 Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland
8 Commissioner Lyons Gray
9 Commissioner Kimberly W. Duffley
10 Commissioner Jeffrey A. Hughes
11 Commissioner Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.
12

13 IN THE MATTER OF:

14 Generic Electric - 2020 Biennial
15 Integrated Resource Plan Reports and
16 Related 2020 REPS Compliance Plans
17

18 VOLUME 2
19
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24

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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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IDENTIFIED/ADMITTED

No exhibits of record.

P R O C E E D I N G S

COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Madam Court
Reporter, if you will open the record, please, and
let's all please come to be order.

My name is Dan Clodfelter, and I am the
Presiding Commissioner at tonight's hearing. Joining
me are the following members of the Commission, please
raise your hand so folks watching on YouTube can see
you when I call your name. We have with us Commission
Chair Charlotte Mitchell; Commissioners ToNola
Brown-Bland, Lyons Gray, Kim Duffley, Jeff Hughes, and
Floyd McKissick, Jr.

We will now call for hearing Docket Number
E-100, Sub 165, which is In The Matter of the 2020
Biennial Integrated Resource Plan Reports and the
Related 2020 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard
Compliance Plans for Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke
Energy Progress, and Virginia Electric and Power
Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina.

Before we proceed this evening and as
required by the State Government Ethics Act, I will
remind members of the Commission of our duty to avoid
conflicts of interest, and inquire at this time as to
whether any Commissioner has a known conflict of

1 interest with respect to these proceedings. If so,
2 please identify.

3 (No response)

4 Madam Court Reporter, please let the record
5 reflect that no conflicts have been identified by any
6 Commissioner.

7 North Carolina General Statute § 62-110.1(c)
8 requires the Commission to develop, publicize and keep
9 current an analysis of the long-range needs for
10 electricity in North Carolina. In order to meet this
11 requirement, the Commission conducts an annual
12 investigation into the Integrated Resource Plans
13 prepared by each of the principal electric utilities
14 under the Commission's jurisdiction. In addition to
15 that review, Commission Rule R8-67(b) requires
16 electric public utilities to file a Renewable Energy
17 Portfolio Standard plan, called a REPS Compliance Plan
18 for short, as part of their annual reports.

19 The Integrated Resource Planning, or IRP in
20 short reference, is intended to identify those
21 electric resource options that can be obtained at the
22 lowest cost to ratepayers consistent with safe,
23 adequate and reliable electric service. The
24 Utilities' electric Integrated Resource Plans must

1 consider conservation, energy efficiency, load
2 management, as well as supply-side alternatives in the
3 selection of resource portfolio.

4 The Commission does not approve or
5 disapprove the Utilities' Integrated Resource Plans.
6 It takes those plans into consideration in its own
7 long-range plan for electricity service in North
8 Carolina and also in its determination of Applications
9 for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity
10 to construct new electric generating facilities and in
11 other proceedings where approval of utility programs
12 or investments is required by the General Statutes.

13 On May 1st, 2020, Dominion Energy North
14 Carolina filed its 2020 Integrated Resource Plan and
15 its REPS Compliance Plan.

16 On September 1st, 2020, Duke Energy Progress
17 and Duke Energy Carolinas filed their 2020 IRPs and
18 2020 REPS Compliance Plans.

19 The participation of the Public Staff as a
20 party in this proceeding is recognized pursuant to
21 General Statute § 62-15(d). And, in addition, the
22 participation of the North Carolina Attorney General's
23 Office is recognized pursuant to his notice of
24 intervention filed under General Statute § 62-20.

1 The following additional parties petitioned
2 to intervene and have been granted a status as
3 intervenors by Commission Order. They are the North
4 Carolina Sustainable Energy Association; Vote Solar;
5 the Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance; NC WARN,
6 Inc.; the Center for Biological Diversity; Carolina
7 Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates; the Carolina
8 Utility Customers Association; the Tech Customers;
9 Broad River Energy, LLC; the City of Asheville and
10 Buncombe County; the City of Charlotte; the Sierra
11 Club; the Natural Resources Defense Council;
12 ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc.; the North
13 Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency; and the North
14 Carolina Municipal Power Agency, I.

15 On February 2nd of this year, the Commission
16 issued an Order scheduling a public hearing to be
17 conducted via Webex on March 16th of this year for the
18 purpose of taking non-expert public testimony from
19 public witnesses with respect to the IRPs and the REPS
20 Compliance Plans. The Order stated that members of
21 the public desiring to testify must register in
22 advance of the hearing no later than 5:00 p.m. on
23 Thursday, March 11th, 2021, by contacting the Public
24 Staff. The Commission's Order also required the three

1 Utilities to publish notice of this hearing in
2 newspapers having general coverage in their respective
3 North Carolina service territories.

4 The Public Staff received more than 200
5 requests to testify at the original scheduled hearing.
6 The Commission was very pleased to have this level of
7 interest but determined that accommodating such a
8 large number of witnesses via remote technology on a
9 single evening presented logistical and technical
10 challenges that could not be overcome. And,
11 therefore, the Commission issued an Order on March
12 12th stating in part that persons registering to
13 testify for the March 16th hearing date would instead
14 be heard on a series of sessions over several dates in
15 April and in May.

16 On March 26th, the Commission issued an
17 Order establishing six dates in April and May for the
18 purpose of hearing public witness testimony from the
19 persons who had previously registered with the Public
20 Staff. The Commission directed the Public Staff to
21 evenly schedule the witnesses across the six evenings
22 and to notify each person of the date he or she is to
23 testify.

24 That brings us to tonight, which is the

1 second such hearing and to the process that we will
2 follow this evening to receive your testimony.

3 Over the past year, the Commission has
4 conducted several public hearings using remote
5 technology. We have learned that such hearings can
6 take longer and can sometimes be more complex than
7 hearings conducted in person in the hearing room in
8 Raleigh. And so, in the interest of being able to
9 hear from everyone scheduled to testify this evening,
10 I ask you to respect and to abide by the following
11 procedures.

12 First, the Public Staff has grouped
13 witnesses and has scheduled each group of witnesses
14 for a specific date. The group scheduled for tonight
15 are the only witnesses the Commission will receive
16 testimony from this evening. Once all the registered
17 witnesses have testified for this evening, the hearing
18 will then recess, and the next session will be called
19 at a later date.

20 Second, public witnesses as they call in
21 will be on the telephone line but will not be on the
22 video screen available to us as Commissioners are
23 available on YouTube. Anyone, however, is
24 participating in or observing tonight's hearing can

1 watch the Commission and the representatives of the
2 Companies and the parties via the YouTube link. The
3 link to the YouTube video is available to you on the
4 Commission's website. If you have not found that
5 link, it may be found at www.ncuc.net on the
6 Commission's home page.

7 The Public Staff will call the witnesses
8 this evening in the order in which they registered to
9 speak. When your name is called, at that point our
10 meeting technician will unmute your phone line. When
11 you hear two beeps on your phone line, that means your
12 line is then unmuted. After that, I will ask you to
13 take an oath of affirmation. We will not be asking
14 witnesses to swear on the Bible because quite
15 obviously we can't make a Bible physically available
16 to you tonight. So, you will be asked to take an oath
17 before you make your testimony. After you take the
18 oath, the Public Staff attorney will ask you a few
19 introductory questions just for the record and
20 immediately after that you may proceed to make your
21 statement. You will have five minutes to present your
22 testimony. Due to the number of witnesses we have and
23 the requirements of the technology, I do not have the
24 latitude tonight to allow you to go beyond your

1 allowed five-minute time.

2 Commissioner Brown-Bland will be keeping
3 time, and when you hear a ringing noise coming in
4 while you're speaking that means you have run out of
5 time. So let me suggest to you that if you have
6 something to say that you believe has already been
7 said by an earlier speaker, it may be wise for you to
8 simply refer to that earlier testimony and say you
9 support the earlier speaker's position. That will
10 give you time to make different points or new points
11 that you haven't made or that no one else has made
12 before. If you have more information that you wish
13 the Commission to consider than you are able to
14 provide tonight in the allowed time, please remember
15 that you may file a supplemental written statement
16 with your Commission Clerk and that your written
17 statements will become part of the official record in
18 this proceeding as well.

19 You will be speaking to the Commissioners
20 whom you will be able to see via the YouTube link.
21 After your statement is made and you're finished, the
22 Commissioners and the attorneys for the parties will
23 be given an opportunity to ask you questions. So
24 please don't hang up your telephone line until I have

1 let you know whether or not any Commissioner or party
2 may have a question for you.

3 When you have completed your statement and
4 you have responded to any questions that have been
5 asked of you, your phone line will be muted again, and
6 you are free to disconnect your line if you wish to do
7 so and go on about your evening's business. You are
8 welcome to stay on the line. You're welcome to
9 continue to watch on YouTube, but once you have gone
10 back onto mute please don't try to reenter the
11 conversation or reinsert yourself into the
12 proceedings. You are encouraged to continue to follow
13 us on YouTube if you'd like to do so.

14 Finally, let me touch on a couple of items
15 that will help avoid problems with technology this
16 evening. If you are using a cell phone, a portable
17 phone or a smart phone as your telephone link to the
18 hearing, please be sure your device is fully charged
19 or that you can keep it charged during the course of
20 the evening. This hearing could last several hours,
21 and you do not want to have your phone go dead if you
22 are one of the later speakers on tonight's speaker's
23 list.

24 If you are watching the hearing on YouTube

1 and you are also connected by telephone as a speaker,
2 please remember to keep your computer audio on mute in
3 order to avoid feedback on the telephone line. If you
4 are using your computer as your audio device to call
5 into the hearing, please keep your computer audio on
6 mute except when you have been called upon and when
7 you are actually speaking. And last of all, please be
8 sure the volume level on the device you are using
9 tonight is set high enough so that you can be heard by
10 the members of the Commission.

11 With those preliminaries out of the way, I
12 will now call upon counsel for the parties to announce
13 their appearances for the record, beginning with the
14 utility companies.

15 MR. KAYLOR: Thank you, Chair Clodfelter.
16 Members of the Commission, Robert Kaylor appearing on
17 behalf of Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy
18 Progress.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
20 Mr. Kaylor. Mr. Kaylor, if you can turn your volume
21 up just a tad it might be useful. We can hear you but
22 a little bit more volume.

23 Who's next?

24 MR. KAYLOR: Thank you.

1 MR. DANTONIO: Good evening, Commissioners.
2 Nick Dantonio here with McGuireWoods representing
3 Dominion Energy North Carolina.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Appearing for the
5 Attorney General?

6 MR. MAGARIRA: Good evening, North Carolina
7 Utilities Commission, this is Munashe Magarira on
8 behalf of the Attorney General's Office.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good evening,
10 Mr. Magarira.

11 Are there any other intervenors who are
12 appearing tonight through counsel?

13 (Pause).

14 I don't see anyone else on my screen, so
15 we'll move now to the Public Staff.

16 MR. JOSEY: Good evening, Commissioner
17 Clodfelter. Robert Josey with the Public Staff on
18 behalf of the Using and Consuming Public. I'm here
19 with Lucy Edmondson and Layla Cummings.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good evening.
21 Anyone else joining us late who wishes to make an
22 appearance? If not, let me ask counsel are there any
23 preliminary motions or matters that we need to address
24 before we take the first witness?

1 MR. KAYLOR: Not that I'm aware of for Duke.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: If not, then,
3 Mr. Josey, I understand you are going to be at bat
4 tonight, so why don't we let you call the first
5 witness please.

6 MR. JOSEY: Yes, sir. Our first witness is
7 J. Donald Keen. I believe he is not on the line.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. McCoy, is that
9 correct; Mr. Keen is not on the line?

10 MR. MCCOY: Yes, sir; he is not.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Mr. Josey,
12 we will move to your second witness.

13 MR. JOSEY: The second witness is Jennifer
14 Roberts.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Roberts, are
16 you there?

17 MS. ROBERTS: I am here. Can you hear me?

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can indeed.
19 Thank you. Let's get you sworn in.

20 JENNIFER ROBERTS;
21 having been duly affirmed,
22 testified as follows:

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you very
24 much. Mr. Josey, you may proceed.

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

2 Q Could you please provide your name, your address
3 and your electric provider, please?

4 A Jennifer Roberts, 619 Clement Avenue, Charlotte,
5 and my energy provider is Duke Energy Carolinas.

6 Q You may give your statement.

7 A First, I want to say thank you so much for
8 allowing public input. I also regretfully
9 announce the speaker before me, J. Donald Keen
10 has passed away. He was a great advocate for
11 clean energy, and we all mourn his loss and
12 speaking about climate advocacy.

13 I'm Jennifer Roberts. I've been a
14 four-term County Commissioner in Mecklenburg
15 County, including five years serving as Chair and
16 head of the Environment Committee. I served one
17 term as Mayor of Charlotte, signed the Mayor's
18 conduct pledge, and for the past two and a half
19 years have been working with a national nonprofit
20 called ecoAmerica, which works to engage local
21 and national leadership in climate change
22 solutions and advocacy.

23 I have two main points to make.
24 The first is a decry to glacial pace for

1 transitioning to clean renewable energy in the
2 IRP. As 13-year-old Ben pointed out last week,
3 none of the scenarios include no gas and no coal
4 by 2035.

5 The second is the unjust energy
6 burden that Duke's rate structure continues to
7 place on our low-income neighbors. In the 1980's
8 North Carolina had eleven-billion-dollar weather
9 disasters. Over the past decade, we had
10 forty-one. The increasing frequency of these
11 disasters is raising cost for taxpayers,
12 insurance rates, property values, and the ability
13 of towns to repair their infrastructure, and not
14 to mention the loss of life and property.

15 There are currently 90 towns that
16 are in fear of having to un-incorporate because
17 they could no longer repair their infrastructure
18 that continues to be damaged by repeated
19 weather disasters, flooding and climate impacts.

20 All of this is to underscore the
21 urgency of climate change. Duke Energy's IRP
22 shows little sense of urgency. In fact, on page
23 41 it admits it has the ability to move faster to
24 clean energy if forced. Duke's IRP is not a plan

1 for rapid and complete transition to clean,
2 renewable energy. It talks about battery storage
3 being quote, emergent with limited history and
4 limited scale deployment.

5 For reference, I point to Florida
6 Power & Light that is currently building the
7 world's largest battery storage facility, 409
8 megawatts. It will open later this year. And
9 Florida Power & Light will use it to retire two
10 gas power plants, save ratepayers \$100 million,
11 and Florida Power & Light has only one coal plant
12 left which it will close next year.

13 The second point is failure to
14 alleviate the energy burden. None of the
15 scenarios detail how Duke's plans -- plans to
16 deal with the energy burden or to expand existing
17 programs for energy efficiency. The City of
18 Charlotte has done a lot of hammering since our
19 2014 study that ranked us last, 50 out of 50, in
20 terms of upward economic mobility. This makes it
21 even more painful to see that Duke Energy's
22 low-income customers are disproportionately
23 energy burdened.

24 As reported by EWG this past year,

1 Duke underfunds its own program designed to help
2 low-income customers pay their bills, and much of
3 the support comes not from the Company but from
4 ratepayers or voluntary donations.

5 As mentioned in other testimony,
6 44 percent of households in Duke Energy's service
7 territory are cost burdened. I also know we have
8 75,000 households that go to Crisis Assistance
9 Ministry every year to get short-term loans to
10 pay their utility bills. This IRP does little to
11 change that.

12 The slow transition to renewables
13 also contributes to environmental racism. Black,
14 indigenous and people of color, or BIPOC, and
15 low-income communities suffer the most from
16 climate impacts warming cities and pollution.
17 There are known health impacts from coal plants,
18 coal ash ponds and other toxins that have been
19 located in your BIPOC communities. Black
20 Americans are three times as likely to die from
21 asthma as whites. Neighborhoods that were
22 redlined can be as much as 10 to 15 degrees
23 hotter in the summer. These are the same
24 households that cannot afford to turn their air

1 conditioning on high.

2 I have walked neighborhoods on our
3 west side during campaigns. I can feel the heat
4 in these -- in our low-income neighbors' homes
5 when I'm invited inside. Research shows it's
6 harder for children to learn when it's hot.
7 Incidence of violence and aggression increase
8 and, of course, people actually die from too much
9 heat. Duke's continued contribution to global
10 warming and its unjust rate structure are both
11 causing harm to BIPOC communities.

12 Justice is woven into every issue
13 in our country today. Climate and environmental
14 justice are in your hands. I implore the
15 Commission to tell Duke Energy to adjust its
16 energy mix faster and its rate structure to
17 retire all fossil fuel infrastructure as soon as
18 possible and to show that it cares about
19 improving the health and lives and access to
20 opportunity for our BIPOC neighbors.

21 Thank you so much for giving me
22 this time tonight.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: (Muted).

24 I'm sorry. The space bar sometimes works

1 and sometimes it doesn't. Let's see if there are any
2 questions for Ms. Roberts from Commissioners, or from
3 counsel.

4 MR. KAYLOR: None from Duke.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Hearing none,
6 Ms. Roberts, thank you for being with us this evening,
7 and you're free to stay or go as you please. Thank
8 you.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Mayor Clodfelter,
10 neighbor.

11 (The witness is excused)

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, next
13 witness.

14 MR. JOSEY: Our next witness is Gail
15 Solomon.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Solomon, are
17 you there?

18 MS. SOLOMON: Yes, I am. Hi.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Hi. We can hear
20 you fine. Let's get you sworn, please.

21 GAIL SOLOMON;

22 having been duly affirmed,

23 testified as follows:

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey.

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

2 Q Can you please state your name, address and
3 electricity service provider?

4 A My name is Gail Solomon. My address is 23 Red
5 Maple Drive, Weaverville, North Carolina, and my
6 provider is Duke Energy.

7 Q Is that Duke Energy Carolinas or Progress?

8 A I'm outside of Asheville, I don't know. My
9 husband does the bills.

10 Q Okay.

11 A I can find that out and come back to you.

12 Q That's okay. Please give your statement.

13 A Thank you. Duke Energy's proposed 15-year plan
14 fails to address our society's critical need to
15 remove -- move away from fossil fuels. I believe
16 that Duke is playing bait and switch with the
17 agreement it reached years ago when it agreed to
18 build just two fracked gas plants and agreed to
19 close down the Asheville coal plants.

20 Duke's proposed plan endangers the
21 welfare of not just the population of western
22 North Carolina but also the very planet itself.

23 Duke's proposal to build up to 13
24 fracked gas plants and to continue burning coal

1 until 2049 is a gross betrayal of the public
2 trust. Moreover, developing renewable power
3 sources is far more affordable than Duke's
4 inaccurate numbers suggests. Duke is
5 deliberately misleading the public on an issue of
6 grave importance to all of us.

7 Before Duke dares to build new
8 generation sources, I demand that it show me that
9 it is doing everything possible first to maximize
10 every energy efficiency option. Duke's plan will
11 only increase the cost to ratepayers like me will
12 occur. How dare Duke continue investing in
13 higher priced fossil fuel technologies before
14 doing its best to explore other options. Once
15 again, Duke is putting its hands in my pocket.

16 I want Duke to tell us why its IRP
17 is extending the use of coal instead of speeding
18 up the retirement of all coal plants. Duke
19 should be thinking about closing half of its coal
20 fleet by 2025 and achieving coal-free energy by
21 2030. If Duke was truly public spirited, it
22 would support transition plans for its coal plant
23 communities. If Duke thought about this as hard
24 as it thinks about fossil fuel, I am sure that

1 Duke would come up with something better.

2 Surely Duke's scientists have
3 explained to the Company's decision makers that
4 gas combustion releases carbon dioxide into the
5 atmosphere. Moreover, I am certain that
6 Duke knows that fracking jettisons tons of the
7 pollutant methane into the atmosphere, yet North
8 Carolina and Duke has stated their climate goals.
9 How can Duke support the climate goals it has
10 publicly stated and at the same time push for
11 more fracking, more methane and more carbon
12 dioxide?

13 Duke is speaking out of both sides
14 of its mouth and hoping that the public won't
15 notice. Well, I have news for Duke, we notice.
16 Here's a thought to Duke: Why not consider
17 solar? Is that such an earth-shaking idea?
18 Surely, it's less earth shaking than fracking
19 which actually causes the earth to shake. Duke
20 must be aware of the proven connection between
21 fracking and earthquakes and Duke must know that
22 the location of these fracking plants in the
23 poorer communities and the communities of color
24 unfairly takes away their environmental rights.

1 I urge the Company to go solar.
2 Not only is solar the cleanest energy source, but
3 it is also the most cost-effective. Duke must
4 know that North Carolina could actually boost its
5 renewable energy by 2035 to 66 percent while
6 simultaneously driving ratepayer costs down.

7 So, I ask Duke, knowing all of
8 this, what stands in its way from doing the right
9 thing? What stands in its way from ensuring a
10 better future for all of us in western North
11 Carolina? What stands in its way from giving our
12 children a planet to call home when they grow up?
13 It all adds up to just one answer, one that Duke
14 must assuredly know. I urge Duke to please do
15 the math and this time do it correctly, and then
16 do the work to make it happen.

17 Duke is in the position to change
18 things for the better for all of us. I am
19 begging them not to blow it. Please. I will
20 never forgive them, neither will all of our
21 children. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
23 Ms. Solomon.

24 Are there any questions for Ms. Solomon from

1 representatives of the parties or the Commissioners?

2 (No response)

3 If not, Ms. Solomon, thank you very much for
4 participating in the hearing this evening. Thank you.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you for your time.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you.

7 (The witness is excused)

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

9 MR. JOSEY: Thank you. I believe Callers 4
10 and 5 on our list are not online, so we'll move to
11 Caller 6, Jerome Wagner.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right.

13 Mr. Jerome Wagner, can you hear me?

14 MR. WAGNER: Yes. Can I be heard now? May
15 I be -- am I heard?

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes.

17 MR. WAGNER: Great. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes, you are. So,
19 let's get you sworn in.

20 JEROME WAGNER;

21 having been duly affirmed,

22 testified as follows:

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you.

24 Mr. Josey, you may proceed.

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

2 Q Will you please state your name, address and
3 electricity service provider, please?

4 A Yes. My name is Jerome Wagner. I reside at 110
5 Summerlake Drive, Southwest, in Concord, North
6 Carolina. My electric provider is the City of
7 Concord, but I do speak on behalf of people who
8 are customers of Duke Energy Carolinas.

9 Q Thank you. Please give your statement.

10 A Thank you very much. I am the lead organizer for
11 350 Charlotte. We are grassroots, a volunteer
12 group focused on climate change mitigation and
13 climate justice. My comments here will focus on
14 Duke Energy's IRPs. 350 Charlotte has submitted
15 a written comment to the Utilities Commission
16 docket already. To summarize those comments, we
17 believe that all new fossil fuel related
18 construction must stop immediately; that we
19 maximize the deployment of renewables now; and
20 that R&D must be focused on long-term storage.

21 In terms of the pathways presented
22 by Duke, we feel that are pathway D, 70 percent
23 CO2 reduction high wind, is a necessary starting
24 point. Only this pathway meets the Governor's

1 stated CO2 reduction requirements through the use
2 of currently available technology. That summary
3 addresses 350's analysis. I'll follow with some
4 personal comments.

5 I've been a climate activist for
6 one decade now. Looking at the current situation
7 and looking ahead, it is obvious to me that
8 intellectual attempts to solve the climate crisis
9 have been woefully ineffective. The studies of
10 nature, the published reports, the policy
11 recommendations, the further studies, the COP
12 meetings have gotten us nowhere. So, rather than
13 stick to logical and intellectual points, I'm
14 going to my emotions.

15 My emotive words are appalled and
16 scared. I am appalled that insignificant
17 process -- by the insignificant progress made by
18 us despite focused study and discussion of global
19 climate change. The only thing proven by decades
20 of conversation here is that we as humans are
21 incapable of acting to our collective benefit. I
22 am appalled. I'm scared. In my view, the future
23 is bleak to those with enough courage to actually
24 contemplate it. What does the future hold as

1 climate migration pushes people from Central
2 America to the more temperate United States?
3 What does the future hold as traditional water
4 supplies dry up imperiling all? What does the
5 future hold as food systems break down, surpluses
6 are eaten through, and famine strikes
7 pervasively? What does the future hold as
8 political unrest breaks out all around us?

9 The prospect is truly dystopian,
10 especially for my grandsons, Carson, Cooper,
11 Calihan and Lincoln who will be in their mid-30's
12 in 2050. I am scared. Is hope still warranted?
13 I warrant -- I assert that there is hope in the
14 process and work done by the Utilities
15 Commission. It is bodies like you that are
16 steering our collective energy future. Yours is
17 the most important job at this time, weighing
18 between monopoly, corporate power, political
19 expediency, and true progress. No new gas. Stop
20 coal. Max renewables now. Thank you and good
21 evening. I'm done.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
23 Mr. Wagner.

24 Let's see, do any of the party's

1 representatives or Commissioners have questions for
2 Mr. Wagner?

3 (No response)

4 If not, thank you, Mr. Wagner, for
5 participating in the hearing this evening. We
6 appreciate it.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.
8 Goodnight.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Goodnight.

10 (The witness is excused)

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, your
12 next witness, please?

13 MR. JOSEY: Callers 7 and 8 on our list are
14 not online, so we're going to move to Caller Number 9,
15 Harvey --

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. That would
17 be Harvey Richmond?

18 MR. JOSEY: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Richmond, can
20 you hear me?

21 (Pause).

22 Mr. Richmond?

23 MR. RICHMOND: Can you hear me?

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We -- you're a

1 little bit faint. Try again, Mr. Richmond.

2 MR. RICHMOND: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Your audio seems
4 to be cutting in and out a little bit. Give it
5 another try.

6 (Pause).

7 Mr. McCoy, can you help Mr. Richmond?

8 MR. MCCOY: No, sir. I mean, he is
9 connected. I don't know why he can't -- we can't hear
10 him. We just heard him just very briefly. I'm not
11 too sure what's going on.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I'll tell you what
13 let's do. Mr. Richmond, if you can hear me. We're
14 going to just for the moment skip over you. We know
15 you're there on the phone line. We're going to skip
16 you for a minute and see if you can do a little work
17 on that phone line and we'll come back to you.

18 Mr. Josey, let's take the next witness then,
19 please.

20 MR. JOSEY: Caller Number 10 is not
21 available, so we're going to go to Number 11, Jane
22 Barnett.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Barnett, can
24 you hear me?

1 MS. BARNETT: Yes, can you hear me?

2 (Audio feedback)

3 Can you hear me?

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes, Ms. Barnett,
5 we can hear you.

6 MS. BARNETT: All right. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let's get
8 you sworn.

9 JANE BARNETT;
10 having been duly affirmed,
11 testified as follows:

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey,
13 proceed.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

15 Q Yes, could you please state --

16 A My name is Jane Barnett. I live in Moore County.
17 I'm at 900 River Road in Robbins, North Carolina,
18 and my provider is Randolph Electric Membership.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Barnett,
20 you're very efficient. You put Mr. Josey out of a
21 job. Please proceed with your statement.

22 A Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm a
23 retired math teacher, grandmother of six and now
24 a great-grandmother, and when I consider the

1 young families of my grandchildren and former
2 students, and the promising life of little
3 eight-month-old Hayes, I want to believe in their
4 optimism in planning for their futures. However,
5 I've been studying about what a mindless
6 continuation of current behaviors looks like and
7 I know the prospects are grim.

8 The climate is already changing.
9 We have catastrophic hurricanes, flooding, and
10 destroying communities right around us as never
11 before. And more subtle effects of warmer
12 temperatures and warming and rising seas are
13 already noticeable.

14 I took the Climate Reality
15 Leadership training and studied with the Climate
16 Crisis Working Group of Moore County. And the
17 urgency of the mission has become apparent to me.
18 So, I have examined the Duke Energy IRP to see if
19 they are serious about using their vast power to
20 make a difference, and it is apparent that they
21 are not. Cities such as Charlotte and Raleigh
22 find the base case option falls far short in
23 meeting their energy goals. This IRP should be
24 redone.

1 Electricity production by burning
2 coal and natural gas is the largest single source
3 of greenhouse gases; 25 percent in some areas
4 according to the Drawdown project. And the
5 methane and CO2 emissions from the extraction and
6 refining of fuels for this purpose are
7 considerable. With a climate crisis so imminent
8 every step taken and plan made must work to
9 reduce carbon emissions 70 percent by 2030 and
10 100 percent by 2050. The North Carolina Energy
11 Plan is the road map for this.

12 The finances of the Duke monopoly
13 in this state are key. Assuming that the lowest
14 hanging fruit could bring the emissions down
15 enough by 2030 by retiring coal and gas plants
16 and adding renewables with the sun and wind so
17 abundant here, investments are needed to
18 accomplish that. Other examples are increasing
19 storage capacity, urging conservation, and
20 building community solar which could make clean
21 energy available to a larger population.

22 However, in addition, many
23 innovations that will be needed for the harder
24 lifts between 2030 and 2050 have not been

1 developed, many not even invented yet.

2 Investments made this decade to bring these into
3 future reality should also be substantial.

4 Public and private partnerships are needed for
5 that research and development immediately along
6 with a willingness to make the adjustments.

7 All of this is to say building
8 nine new gas-powered plants in this crucial
9 period is irrational. While these plants should
10 soon be retired as obsolete, Duke's customers
11 would be burdened by paying for them for decades
12 longer. This would be on top of the millions
13 Duke spends lobbying and contributing to state
14 legislators, and Duke's substantial cost of
15 lawsuits over coal ash damages and unwanted
16 pipelines. None of the spending improves
17 services to the customers nor addresses the
18 climate crisis. Then Duke and PUC pass on rising
19 costs overwhelming customers, many of whom had
20 power cut off during that pandemic. That's
21 another reason to reduce spending that is not
22 productive. With the right motivation, needed
23 investment could address the infrastructure
24 technology and innovation the future calls for

1 MR. RICHMOND: Can you hear me? I've got it
2 on maximum volume.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you
4 now. So, Mr. Josey, let's go back to Mr. Richmond.
5 And we'll swear in Mr. Richmond, please.

6 HARVEY RICHMOND;
7 having been duly affirmed,
8 testified as follows:

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you.
10 Mr. Josey?

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

12 Q Would you please state your name, address and
13 electric provider, please?

14 A Harvey Richmond, 200 Ivy Green Chase Court in
15 Apex. And Apex provides the retail energy. Its
16 wholesale is Duke providing it through Apex
17 Municipality.

18 Q Please give your statement.

19 A Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to
20 address the Utilities Commission and Public Staff
21 this evening. I am a retired employee of the
22 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency who over 31
23 years worked on the development and review of
24 national air quality standards. I'm an active

1 member of the Sierra Club and other environmental
2 and energy organizations. The comments I am
3 making today are my own.

4 While I'm not a direct customer of
5 Duke Energy, I reside in Apex which provides my
6 family energy through a municipal co-op.

7 However, the Town of Apex gets its energy from
8 Duke Energy. In the last few years, the Town of
9 Apex and Wake County Board of Commissioners,
10 along with many other towns, cities and counties,
11 have adopted resolutions and plans that set goals
12 for transitioning to a hundred percent clean
13 energy.

14 My town in Wake County where I
15 live cannot reach these ambitious goals without
16 Duke Energy adopting more aggressive plans to
17 replace its declining coal-fired power plants.
18 In order to meet State and local greenhouse gas
19 emission goals, Duke Energy must replace retired
20 coal-fired power plants with clean energy and
21 must promote most comprehensive energy
22 conservation programs.

23 Despite ads on TV and radio paid
24 for by Duke Energy and the natural gas industry

1 promoting the use of more fracked gas, scientific
2 experts have raised serious concerns about the
3 leakage of methane from the wellhead and from the
4 transmission process to deliver natural gas. As
5 it is widely accepted, methane emissions poses a
6 serious threat to our climate. The climate
7 crisis is real, impacting us more each year with
8 devastating storms, floods, wildfires, sea levels
9 rise, droughts, et cetera.

10 Duke Energy's IRP leans toward the
11 addition of more gas-fired power plants instead
12 of building more solar and wind energy, building
13 more battery storage capacity, and promoting
14 energy conservation. Duke Energy's IRP is not in
15 the public interest.

16 I urge you to declare that the
17 current IRP is unreasonable and does not provide
18 an adequate basis for future decisions on adding
19 future power plants. The Commission should send
20 the current IRP back to Duke Energy with marching
21 orders to develop a plan that is consistent with
22 North Carolina's Clean Energy Plan and Duke
23 Energy's own long-range goal of reaching carbon
24 neutrality by 2050. Duke Energy needs to lead in

1 promoting more clean energy, not lag far behind.

2 I also call on the Utilities
3 Commission to issue an order that requires Duke
4 to retire all of its coal-fired plants by 2030.
5 By closing all of its plants by 2030, customers
6 will save billions by providing clean air and
7 water for all North Carolinians.

8 Finally, I urge the Utilities
9 Commission to encourage the Environmental
10 Management Commission to support North Carolina
11 joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
12 known as RGGI. RGGI is a collaboration of 10
13 northeast mid-Atlantic states that places a
14 declining limit on cost and carbon emissions from
15 the power sector. It offers a flexible framework
16 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a lower
17 cost. Virginia is the latest state to join RGGI.

18 The study released in February by
19 the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy
20 Solutions and the UNC Center for Climate, Energy,
21 Environment and Economics shows that RGGI
22 combined with other policies such as accelerating
23 coal retirement can improve the
24 cost-effectiveness of reducing carbon pollutions

1 by creating additional savings for ratepayers
2 while guaranteeing that the State will achieve
3 its pollution reduction targets.

4 In closing, I again urge the
5 Utilities Commission to find that Duke Energy's
6 IRP is not reasonable. Other states in the
7 southeast have recently rejected IRPs including
8 South Carolina, and on February 1st of this year,
9 Virginia rejected Dominion Energy's IRP.

10 I will send my email, my written
11 statement and some additional which has links to
12 articles about both of those, both the Virginia
13 and South Carolina rejection. And that's the
14 conclusion of my statement.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
16 Mr. Richmond.

17 Are there any questions for Mr. Richmond?

18 (No response)

19 Mr. Richmond, thank you again for your
20 testimony this evening. We appreciate it.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

22 (The witness is excused)

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, that
24 moves us then back to witness number 12 I believe,

1 right?

2 MR. JOSEY: Yes, sir. Dr. Russell Outcalt.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Dr. Outcalt?

4 DR. OUTCALT: Yes, I'm here.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We can
6 hear you, so let's get you sworn.

7 RUSSELL OUTCALT;

8 having been duly affirmed,

9 testified as follows:

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

11 Q Could you please state your name, address and
12 electric provider, please?

13 A Yes. My name is Russell Outcalt. I reside at
14 213 Marsh Landing Drive in Holly Springs, North
15 Carolina, and my provider is Duke Energy
16 Progress.

17 Q Thank you. You may provide your statement.

18 A Okay. Thank you. First, I want to thank the
19 Commission for allowing me to speak tonight. I
20 am an active member and I sit on the Board of the
21 Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle, an
22 interfaith group fighting climate change, but
23 again I speak for myself tonight and not ICCT.

24 I'm a retired chemist and I've

1 been aware of the phenomenon of global warming
2 caused by greenhouse gases for over 30 years
3 through the scientific literature. When I first
4 became aware of it, I was absolutely convinced
5 that our leaders would act to prevent potentially
6 catastrophic effects of global warming from
7 greenhouse gases but, unfortunately, that has not
8 taken place, and today we stand at the
9 precipice of catastrophe. The UNIPCC tells us
10 that we have 10 years from today to seriously
11 turn down the curve of greenhouse gas emission
12 global warming, or our kids will face a hellish
13 future. The energy sector is a leading emitter
14 of greenhouse gases. So, Duke and the Commission
15 must now take their responsibilities seriously to
16 act for the sake of our children and
17 grandchildren.

18 Unfortunately, this IRP doesn't
19 reflect any urgency in any regard. There's too
20 much burning of fossil fuels for too long and
21 short trips is given to the potential for
22 renewable energy and storage. Duke needs to
23 align their plans with Governor Cooper's Clean
24 Energy Plan and the recommendations of the

1 UNIPCC.

2 I'm going to keep it short
3 tonight, but I want to leave you with a metaphor
4 based on science, but I think one we can all
5 understand for the situation that we face. Every
6 one of us has driven our car into a parking lot
7 and rolled up the windows in the summertime and
8 we all know it gets hot. That heating is due to
9 the greenhouse effect, exactly the same thing as
10 is going on in our atmosphere caused by
11 greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and
12 methane. But we also know if you've sat in your
13 car, it doesn't get hot right away, it takes a
14 little bit of time. And that's the phase we're
15 in on planet earth right now. We have rolled up
16 the windows on our planetary car and it's
17 starting to heat. And, unfortunately, we're now
18 also in the process of walking away from our
19 children after we've locked them in that car.
20 That is just unacceptable. We have got to act
21 and act urgently to turn down and roll down those
22 windows before it's too late, and I'm afraid this
23 IRP doesn't do that. And that's all I want to
24 say tonight. And I thank you for this time.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
2 Dr. Outcalt.

3 Are there questions from Commissioners or
4 the parties?

5 (No response)

6 Dr. Outcalt, thank you for being with us
7 this evening. You're free to go or stay. We
8 appreciate your coming.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

10 (The witness is excused)

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

12 MR. JOSEY: Yes. Caller 13 is not online,
13 so we're going to move to Caller 14, Donna Russell
14 Doran.

15 MS. DORAN: Hello. Can you hear me?

16 (Audio feedback).

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: No. We're getting
18 some interference on your line.

19 MS. DORAN: Okay. Let me see if I can --
20 does that help at all? Hello?

21 (Audio feedback).

22 MR. McCOY: Commissioner, I muted her. Do
23 you want me to unmute her?

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: What do you think

1 might be happening, John?

2 MR. McCOY: It sounds like some kind of
3 interference. I'm not too sure, maybe a couple of
4 different phones on. It could be a variety of things.
5 Unfortunately, we can't understand what she's saying.
6 Maybe we make an announcement that we come back to
7 her.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let's do that.
9 Ms. -- I don't know if it's Doran or Doran --

10 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: She should call
11 back in and reestablish a new connection.

12 MR. McCOY: I agree.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's a good
14 suggestion.

15 Ms. Doran, if you can hear me, would you
16 please hang up your phone and try to call back in a
17 second time? We will be able to recognize your phone
18 number, so we won't lose you. Just try to hang up and
19 call back in and let's see if we can reestablish the
20 call. If you're calling from a cordless phone or a
21 cell phone and you have a way to get to an
22 old-fashioned telephone that has a cord on it, that
23 might solve the problem. So, we're going to move on
24 for a minute but we're going to come back and see if

1 we can reconnect with you. Okay? I hope you can hear
2 me.

3 Mr. Josey, let's move to the next witness
4 for now.

5 MR. JOSEY: The next witness is Hank Elkins.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Elkins, let's
7 check your phone connection.

8 MR. ELKINS: Good evening. I'm Henry
9 Elkins.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We can hear you.
11 Let's get you sworn then.

12 MR. ELKINS: I reside at --

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Hold a second,
14 Mr. Elkins. Mr. Elkins, hold a second. I've got to
15 get you sworn in.

16 HENRY "HANK" ELKINS;
17 having been duly affirmed,
18 testified as follows:

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Now you can
20 tell us where you live and who your energy provider
21 is.

22 THE WITNESS: I live at 750 Weaver Dairy
23 Road in Chapel Hill, and my energy provider is Duke
24 Energy Carolinas.

1 MR. JOSEY: You can provide your statement
2 now.

3 THE WITNESS: What?

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Go ahead,
5 Mr. Elkins.

6 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MR. ELKINS:

7 Thank you for the opportunity of testifying.
8 I'd like to talk about human cost, because for coal
9 miners in the hills of Appalachia death comes slowly.
10 Breathing gets harder. Scar tissue blocks the oxygen.
11 The inhaling of coal and silica dust produces the
12 progressive, the debilitating, the incurable disease
13 of black lung. And as a coal miner explained, it's
14 almost like a sensation that you're drowning on dry
15 land especially when it progresses. You really never
16 can catch enough breath, and over time it gets worse
17 and worse, and so you're sort of grasping for air.
18 And even in a seated position, not moving, not
19 exercising, you just can't get enough oxygen, not
20 enough oxygen into your blood. And then it goes
21 downhill until your body physically just can no longer
22 survive with that little amount of oxygen and you die.
23 This is from a personal interview with a coal miner in
24 southern Appalachian.

1 There are two ways to stop growing black
2 lung disease and the first is simply to stop breathing
3 the coal dust. It is possible to prevent miners from
4 breathing coal dust, but the operators have
5 consistently demonstrated that they will not do that.
6 They seem to prefer profits over prevention. They
7 could just hang ventilation curtains but only on the
8 four days during that year the inspectors arrive.
9 What about devices that measure coal dust over the
10 year? No problem. Just stash a coal dust-measuring
11 device in a lunchbox and the results will mimic the
12 fresh air of the Alaskan wilderness.

13 How about individual respirators? Great in
14 theory, but faulty respirators that force the 3M
15 Company to pay \$67.5 million to Kentucky miners
16 because of faulty respirators.

17 The second method and the best method to
18 stop black lung disease is simply to stop mining
19 Appalachian coal, to stop burning coal, and to stop
20 buying coal.

21 Duke Energy burns a lot of coal. Duke
22 Energy reports that in 2019 coal constituted
23 26 percent of their energy sources. And every time we
24 in North Carolina turn on the lights, every time we

1 use Duke's energy, we are indirectly participating in
2 the mining of coal. We are partners with the mine
3 operators. We help fund indirectly the slow death of
4 coal miners. Yes, they could go to get inspections.
5 They could go get tests, but few do because they're
6 afraid they'll lose their jobs. And, yes, Duke Energy
7 is reducing coal use gradually. As the IRP suggests,
8 they're shutting down coal generation now. It means
9 writing off huge past investments. Those costs are
10 not easy to swallow. But let's be clear, for the coal
11 miners who are dying now gradually is too late. Every
12 breath of coal dust a miner takes now brings them
13 closer to death. Gradual reduction of coal is not
14 good enough; accelerating better, but we need to say
15 no to Duke Energy coal now, not 10 years from now and
16 not 28 years from now in 2049.

17 Thank you for the opportunity of testifying.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
19 Mr. Elkins.

20 Are there questions for Mr. Elkins from
21 anyone?

22 (No response)

23 If not, Mr. Elkins again, thank you for
24 being with us this evening. We appreciate it.

1 THE WITNESS: You are welcome.

2 (The witness is excused)

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey and
4 Mr. McCoy, have we been able to reconnect with
5 Ms. Doran?

6 MR. JOSEY: I believe so.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Doran, can you
8 hear me?

9 MS. DORAN: I'm back on the line. Can you
10 hear me?

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yeah, I can hear
12 you this time. Yes, that's much, much better. Thank
13 you. Let's get you sworn in, please.

14 DONNA RUSSELL DORAN;
15 having been duly affirmed,
16 testified as follows:

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

19 Q Could you please provide your name, address and
20 electric service provider?

21 A Yes. My name is Donna Russell Doran. I
22 currently live at 914 Hadden Hall Drive in Apex,
23 North Carolina. I just recently bought a condo
24 and am moving to 105 Chatham Lane in -- Chatham

1 Walk Lane in Cary, North Carolina. My provider
2 is Duke Energy.

3 Q Thank you. You can provide your statement.

4 A Well, I want to say first thank you for the
5 opportunity to speak on this critically important
6 issue. And as a grandmother, I have a major
7 stake in climate change work. My interest in the
8 environment was sparked by my early career in
9 lead poisoning research and learning the impact
10 that these early environmental hazards had on us
11 all. Lead in paint, lead in gasoline, lead in
12 the air impacted the health of children in
13 particular, impairing brain function, lowering
14 the IQs of children, and often tragically
15 resulting in severe mental retardation.

16 I learned early on that the cost
17 of environmental hazards to individuals, families
18 of society is immeasurable. Lead poisoning has
19 been mitigated through education, testing and
20 regulatory measures. But in the end, it also
21 required changes by major corporations by
22 removing lead from profitable products and
23 finding better products. And that, to me, is the
24 link to the climate change issues we're dealing

1 with right now. Unfortunately, lessons learned
2 by industry and lead poisoning control have not
3 been adequately applied to climate change.

4 So here we are nearly 50 years
5 later dealing with the impact of deferred
6 maintenance on our earth. Technology is advanced
7 and the science on climate change is conclusive.
8 We need to move away from fossil fuels. We have
9 the knowledge and the tools, and we need to act
10 now.

11 The energy sector is the second
12 leading emitter of greenhouse gases. And Duke
13 Energy is a massive corporation with significant
14 resources at its disposal. Certainly,
15 individuals can and have made a difference. Many
16 of us compost, drive hybrid vehicles
17 and encourage others to choose sustainable
18 practices, and I hope that helps. I'm sure it
19 does move the needle a little bit. But Duke has
20 the ability to make a massive impact on climate
21 change. It's time for it to do its part.

22 Unfortunately, the current plan
23 reminds me of work that my middle school
24 grandsons are often guilty of, doing the minimum

1 to get by. Where is the push for renewable
2 energy and storage? Where is the significant
3 move away from fossil fuels? Where is the
4 alignment with Governor Cooper's Clean Energy
5 Plan? This IRP has what my family called the
6 "problem with soul", S-O-U-L, as in sense of
7 urgency lacking. This is indeed an urgent
8 issues -- issue. So, to Duke Energy and to this
9 Commission, I say use your power and do the right
10 thing now. Thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
12 Ms. Doran. I'm glad that you were able to reconnect
13 with us and make your statement.

14 Does anyone have any questions for
15 Ms. Doran?

16 (No response)

17 Again, thank you for testifying this
18 evening, Ms. Doran.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20 (The witness is excused)

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

22 MR. JOSEY: Yes. I believe the next caller
23 is Jack Parker.

24 MR. MCCOY: Jack Parker dropped off.

1 MR. JOSEY: All right. Then we'll move to
2 Caller 17, Evie Horton.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Horton, are
4 you there?

5 MS. HORTON: Yes. Can you hear me?

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We can hear you
7 fine. Let's give you the oath, please.

8 MS. HORTON: Okay.

9 EVIE HORTON;

10 having been duly affirmed,

11 testified as follows:

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, go
13 ahead.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

15 Q Will you please provide your name, address and
16 electricity provider?

17 A Yes. My name is Evie Horton. I live at 255
18 Bernard Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina, and my
19 energy provider is Duke Energy Progress.

20 Q Thank you. You can provide your statement.

21 A Okay. Thank you to the North Carolina Utilities
22 Commission for allowing our voices to be heard
23 regarding our energy consumption. My family and
24 I have lived in North Carolina for six years and

1 have been Duke Energy customers ever since.

2 I've always had a deep connection
3 with my surrounding natural environment. From
4 growing up in a small town in Ohio catching frogs
5 and searching for salamanders to liking the vast
6 Blue Ridge Mountains in western North Carolina,
7 nature has never failed to captivate me and
8 provide me with a sense of belonging. In nature,
9 I feel the most safe, the most accepted, and the
10 most human.

11 With the threat of climate change
12 looming over our present and future, nature now
13 seems more fleeting instead of this constant
14 entity that has always -- that I had always
15 envisioned. We as a species have made it
16 significantly more difficult for other species to
17 survive on this planet due to many issues such as
18 our constant destruction of the atmosphere
19 through the release of greenhouse gases.

20 Duke Energy's 15-year plan will
21 cause far more harm to our environment and
22 communities than good. Duke would rather charge
23 customers more money to build and consume fracked
24 gas-burning power plants instead of investing

1 time into developing cheaper, more sustainable,
2 renewable energy sources.

3 All natural gas may seem like a
4 good solution in the short term; it has and will
5 continue to destroy the environment as well as
6 take money from people.

7 Climate experts have expressed
8 that Duke should not build any gas burning power
9 plants while instead Duke is planning to build
10 59.

11 Renewable energy will create more
12 jobs, allow more people to not have such a
13 financial burden, and help save our natural
14 environment which is declining at an alarming
15 rate.

16 If Duke Energy cares about the
17 communities and people across the Carolinas as it
18 claims to do, it will revise this plan and focus
19 on renewable energy. This land is home to
20 millions of people, species, and stories. By
21 investing in renewable energy, Duke will protect
22 our home, our land, and our future. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
24 Ms. Horton.

1 Are there questions for Ms. Horton this
2 evening from anyone?

3 (No response)

4 If not, again Ms. Horton, thank you
5 for participating in this evening's hearing.

6 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

7 (The witness is excused)

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey? The
9 next witness, Mr. Josey?

10 MR. JOSEY: Eliana Franklin?

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Franklin, are
12 you there?

13 MS. FRANKLIN: Yes, I'm here.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We can
15 hear you fine.

16 ELIANA FRANKLIN;

17 having been duly affirmed,

18 testified as follows:

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

21 Q Yes. Can you please provide your name, address,
22 and electricity provider?

23 A My name is Eliana Franklin. My address is 2500
24 University Heights, Asheville, North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 And I know that my provider is Duke Energy. I
2 live on campus at the University of North
3 Carolina in Asheville, so I do not have the
4 specific energy provider.

5 Q That's okay. You can provide your statement now.

6 A Okay. Thank you for taking the time to hear our
7 comments and providing a chance for us to share
8 our concerns.

9 Duke Energy's current plan is
10 important to me because it does not take
11 the rapid, decisive action that is needed to
12 combat climate change. Climate change is a
13 crisis that is quickly growing worse and more
14 devastating for our planet and our people and has
15 led to terrible storms and hurricanes which have
16 affected North Carolina's coast time and again.
17 In order to stop climate change, we must scale
18 back the use of fracked gas power plants, not
19 increase them. We must retire coal plants and
20 replace them with renewable energy sources.

21 I work as a tutor and I am a
22 former childcare worker. I have a vision of a
23 sustainable, healthy green future for the
24 children I work with rather than a dark and

1 deadly one. I do not want them to grow up under
2 the worsening effects of climate change. I wish
3 for my students to experience and witness a clean
4 environment, so they do not have to live in fear
5 of mass storms, pollution and wildfires. All
6 people deserve a livable future.

7 Duke Energy has the perfect
8 opportunity to create that future for the
9 students I work with, the future I have hoped
10 for. If Duke replaced gas with solar, they could
11 create more jobs and help combat the climate
12 crisis. I believe that 10 years from now we will
13 find ourselves in a better, more healthy, and
14 sustainable environment. Duke has the chance to
15 be a part of that change, so I urge them to do
16 what is right.

17 And thank you for hearing my
18 statement.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
20 Ms. Franklin. We appreciate your statement this
21 evening.

22 Are there questions for Ms. Franklin?

23 (No response)

24 If not, again, thank you very much for

1 participating in the hearing this evening.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 (The witness is excused)

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, next
5 witness.

6 MR. JOSEY: Yes. James Smith.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Smith, are you
8 there?

9 MR. SMITH: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We can
11 hear you fine.

12 JAMES SMITH;

13 having been duly affirmed,

14 testified as follows:

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey,
16 proceed.

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

18 Q Can you please provide your name, address and
19 electricity provider?

20 A Yes. My name is James Smith. I live at 2111
21 West Knox Street in Durham, North Carolina, and
22 my provider is Duke Energy Progress.

23 Q Thank you. You may give your statement.

24 A Thanks. So, thank you for having me today. I'm

1 sure you've heard many stories on this hearing
2 and past about the reasons why this plan should
3 be significantly amended. Today, not just to
4 speak on the moral imperative that climate change
5 imposes on our energy infrastructure, but as a
6 young person who is alarmed by the urgency
7 required to tackle the climate crisis. And I
8 believe that this dichotomy between clean energy
9 and traditional fossil fuel energy sources
10 provides a real business opportunity through
11 proactive climate action, not just for Duke
12 Energy but for other energy providers around the
13 country. Major financial institutions such as
14 Blackhawk and MFCI are increasingly taking into
15 account climate change in their portfolios, and
16 climate risks such as fossil fuel infrastructure
17 are being institutionally denounced. I would
18 like to invite you to consider both these levels
19 and ramifications of this plan as it currently
20 stands.

21 What communities would be affected
22 by plants that you plan to build? If I had to
23 guess these communities would be low-income
24 communities of color as they have been in the

1 past.

2 Additionally, what methods do you
3 as a company want to send to the world including
4 your investors when knowingly -- when you
5 knowingly go against public interest to profit in
6 the short term? The consequences of these
7 decisions could have significant material impacts
8 against your company in the future and those
9 might not be tangible now, but they will become
10 ever more imperative as the mainstream investor
11 community starts to really understand the risks
12 that climate change poses.

13 I understand why you feel that
14 your plan to bolster fossil fuel infrastructure
15 across North Carolina is the right thing to do in
16 the short term, but perhaps you feel that Duke
17 Energy is so entrenched in the way that energy
18 has been traditionally produced that you can't
19 choose another option.

20 This is where I want to invite you
21 to genuinely listen to the concerns of the people
22 on this call. Your decisions will have untold
23 impacts, again disproportionately impacting
24 disadvantaged communities and these impacts can

1 be mitigated by considering a more comprehensive
2 analysis that goes just beyond the costs
3 associated with short-term decisions.

4 Please act as a leader today so
5 that others will be able to have a voice in the
6 future. To the Commission, consider not just
7 that the short-term economics of this plan may be
8 attractive, but the fact that you are voting for
9 a plan that your children and grandchildren --

10 (Inaudible)

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Smith, we've
12 lost your audio connection. Are you still there?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear
14 me?

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You're back now
16 again. We lost you when you were talking about the
17 effects on children.

18 THE WITNESS: Okay. So, like I said, this
19 plan puts children and grandchildren at risk. And
20 this is where the business --

21 (Inaudible)

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Smith, your
23 audio is breaking up and the court reporter can't hear
24 you.

1 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry about that. That's
2 close enough to the end. But think about the
3 children, that's my main point.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
5 Mr. Smith. I'm sorry your audio was breaking up and
6 the court reporter couldn't hear you.

7 Are there any questions for Mr. Smith?

8 (No response)

9 Thank you, sir, for joining us for the
10 hearing this evening and for participating. We
11 appreciate it.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

13 (The witness is excused)

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, who's
15 next?

16 MR. JOSEY: Yes, Eliza Stokes.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Stokes, are
18 you there?

19 MS. STOKES: I am. Can you hear me?

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Loud and clear.

21 ELIZA STOKES;

22 having been duly affirmed,

23 testified as follows:

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

2 Q Can you please provide your name, address and
3 electricity provider?

4 A Yeah. My name is Eliza Stokes. My address is
5 408 Shepherd Branch Road, Weaverville, North
6 Carolina, and my energy provider is Duke Energy
7 Progress.

8 Q Thank you. You may give your statement.

9 A Good evening everyone. Thanks for letting me
10 speak today. My name is Eliza Stokes, and I am
11 the energy organizer at MountainTrue, the
12 organization I'm speaking on behalf of today.
13 We're an environmental organization with over
14 15,000 supporters based in western North
15 Carolina.

16 In my position, I work to find
17 solutions that decision makers can make at the
18 local, regional and statewide levels to take
19 action on the climate crisis and ensure that my
20 generation inherits a just and livable planet.
21 In this work it's clear to me that there's only
22 so much we can do on climate at the local and
23 regional levels without strong action from
24 decision makers like the folks at Duke Energy and

1 the N.C. Utilities Commission.

2 I'm speaking today to ask your
3 body to require massive changes to Duke's
4 proposed IRP for the sake of the climate,
5 biodiversity and public health in our state.

6 The climate crisis is already here
7 in North Carolina and it's clearly already
8 costing us. From increasingly destructive storms
9 like Hurricanes Maria and Florence to historic
10 wildfires and overflowing sewage infrastructure
11 along the French Broad River due to intensifying
12 rainfall.

13 A few years ago, a North Carolina
14 Department of Transportation official shared with
15 me that between 2004 and 2016 NCDOT spent an
16 average of \$66 million per year on
17 climate-related road repairs. In 2017, that
18 number rose to \$222 million and, in 2018, it rose
19 to over \$300 million causing DOT to put much
20 needed infrastructure improvement projects all
21 over the State on hold to pay for climate-related
22 repairs. These numbers should astound us all.
23 We're already paying for the disastrous effects
24 of only one degree Celsius of global warming, and

1 the cost of climate change in our state will only
2 get much higher if we stay on a fossil fuel path
3 like the one laid out in Duke's proposed IRP.

4 The Intergovernmental Panel on
5 Climate Change has been very clear that we must
6 reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to
7 60 percent by 2030 to avert far more devastating
8 impacts of climate change than the ones we are
9 already seeing. 2030 is in only nine years, that
10 means the next decade is the absolute most
11 important one in the fight against climate change
12 and that we simply cannot afford to continue
13 business as usual. We can't bring on any more
14 gas plants in North Carolina.

15 I would also ask you not to buy
16 into the false dichotomy between transitioning to
17 renewable energy and increasing bills for
18 customers. It will certainly be far more costly
19 for customers to be locked into paying for gas
20 plants for decades after they're profitable than
21 to make the transition to affordable renewable
22 energy now.

23 Your Commission has the power to
24 make history by stepping in and requiring an

1 Integrated Resource Plan that moves North
2 Carolina to a renewable, affordable and equitable
3 energy future. I urge you to make that choice.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
6 Ms. Stokes. Let's see if there are any questions for
7 you this evening.

8 (Pause).

9 And I'm not seeing any. So again, thank you
10 for coming and making your statement this evening. We
11 appreciate it.

12 (The witness is excused)

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, who
14 will be our next witness?

15 MR. JOSEY: Gus Preschle (pronounced
16 Pre-shel).

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Preschle, are
18 you there?

19 MR. PRESCHLE: Yes. This is Gus Preschle
20 (pronounced Presh-ly).

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Preschle. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. JOSEY: Excuse me. Sorry about that.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, sir,

1 Mr. Preschle.

2 GUS PRESCHLE;

3 having been duly affirmed,

4 testified as follows:

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

7 Q Could you please provide your name, address and
8 electricity provider?

9 A Gus Preschle. I live at 1023 Feldspar Lane in
10 Louisville, North Carolina, and Duke Energy
11 Carolinas is my service provider.

12 Q Thank you. You may give your statement.

13 A Okay. Well, thank you very much for this
14 opportunity. You have an opportunity to reduce
15 untold human suffering in the future from
16 stronger and more frequent storms, flooding rain,
17 wildfires, tornadoes and worse. I'm sure you've
18 seen these on TV, but there is a deeper story to
19 be told.

20 And first, I want to flash back
21 almost 20 years to the World Trade Center on 911
22 where I'm a survivor having been rescued by brave
23 firefighters, but on that day I lost 85
24 coworkers, and the families still suffer today

1 from that tragedy, and I saw that kind of
2 suffering in North Carolina.

3 And as an example, I want to talk
4 about Hurricane Florence which hit in
5 September 2018 wreaking havoc on over 14,500
6 homes and the lives of thousands of North
7 Carolinians. My church quickly responded to help
8 with the cleanup and rebuilding as many homes as
9 we could. The suffering and damage we witnessed
10 on the first trip shocked us so much so that we
11 made bi-monthly work trips over the period of two
12 years until Covid-19 shut us down. Even now
13 there are still hundreds of families unable to
14 reoccupy their homes. These disasters are blows
15 to people who are already experiencing other
16 tragedies in their lives.

17 We cleaned up and repaired the
18 homes of a mother caring for her seriously
19 disabled veteran son; a woman whose husband died
20 shortly after the storm; another woman struggling
21 with stage IV cancer and the medical visits
22 required while her home was unlivable; and a
23 minister who had a heart attack while repairing
24 the flood damaged home he bought as a retirement

1 place. We even cleaned up a church to
2 permanently convert it to a storm relief center
3 because the flooding put them out of business,
4 and the County and the Red Cross needed a
5 permanent recovery center in that low-lying area.
6 Water invaded these homes followed quickly by
7 dangerous mold making the houses unlivable, yet
8 some people had nowhere to go so they stayed put
9 for months without electricity and heat.

10 Then there's the impact on the
11 volunteers and the first responders. On one of
12 our visits a volunteer broke his hand when a
13 ladder fell out from under him. Others suffered
14 from mold inhalation and infectious cuts.

15 Like at the World Trade Center,
16 first responders will suffer PTSD and other
17 chronic illnesses until they pass on. You can
18 mitigate some of this terrible human suffering by
19 taking all legal action to assure that Duke
20 Energy creates and implements a much more
21 aggressive energy plan consistent with the best
22 available science and engineering, and also
23 consider steps to set the stage to assure that
24 Duke Energy pays for this financial and other

1 harm it is now doing knowingly. Thank you very
2 much for this opportunity.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Preschle,
4 thank you very much for sharing that with us this
5 evening. We appreciate it.

6 Are there any questions that anyone wants to
7 ask Mr. Preschle?

8 (No response)

9 If not, then thank you, sir, again for
10 appearing this evening.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

12 (The witness is excused)

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, who do
14 we have next?

15 MR. JOSEY: Our next person is Gail Powell.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Powell, are
17 you there?

18 (No response)

19 Ms. Powell?

20 (No response)

21 Mr. McCoy, do we have Ms. Powell?

22 MS. POWELL: Hello.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Powell, is
24 that you?

1 MS. POWELL: Yes. Yes, it is.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We can
3 hear you now. That's fine, thank you. Let's give you
4 the oath.

5 GAIL POWELL;
6 having been duly affirmed,
7 testified as follows:

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey,
9 proceed.

10 MR. JOSEY: Yes.

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

12 Q Can you please provide your name, address and
13 electricity provider?

14 A Gail Powell, 6516 Deerview Drive, Raleigh, North
15 Carolina, and my provider is Duke Energy
16 Progress.

17 Q Thank you. You may give your statement.

18 A I'm a board member of Interfaith Creation Care of
19 the Triangle and today I speak on behalf of
20 future generations and all life on earth. There
21 are many types of costs associated with the
22 proposed Duke Energy IRP besides the cost of
23 electricity. These include the costs associated
24 with failure that urgently and dramatically

1 address climate change.

2 I will attempt to describe
3 scenarios that North Carolina could very well
4 face by the end of this century if the North
5 Carolina Utility Commission and Duke Energy fail
6 to boldly and urgently move forward to clean
7 energy sources.

8 The flood: Six options proposed
9 by Duke will contribute to such a world. The
10 2018 climate data from the IPCC Report indicates
11 that there will be a 4-to-9 degree Fahrenheit
12 increase in temperature by 2100. The scenarios
13 that I describe here today are based on a
14 scenario of 9 degrees Fahrenheit temperature
15 rise. A scenario where we fail to take a
16 sustainable action to address climate change now.
17 The scenarios I describe in the next few minutes
18 were taken from publications and presentations
19 made by North Carolina climate scientists.

20 Duke Energy's proposed IRP is an
21 excellent example of failing to take substantial
22 action to address climate change. Should we
23 aggressively address climate change immediately,
24 it is highly likely that we can substantially

1 reduce these projected outcomes. The North
2 Carolina Utility Commission has the power to
3 ensure that Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy
4 Progress take substantial action on climate
5 change.

6 These scenarios assume a moderate
7 rate of polar ice melting; however, current
8 evidence suggests a trend for a more rapid
9 melting which will create more rapid, drastic and
10 expensive outcomes to occur sooner. Think about
11 your children and grandchildren and the children
12 of our North Carolina communities as you hear
13 this scenario. Think about the exorbitant costs
14 associated with the impact of unmitigated climate
15 change in our state. Many parts of the Outer
16 Banks will be routinely submerged and severely
17 eroded by storms. Coastal towns could be
18 routinely flooded twice daily at high tide.
19 Flooding will be in more coastal communities
20 located near rivers and estuaries. Coastal
21 groundwater will be contaminated by saltwater
22 intrusion. All of these scenarios and their
23 associated expenses and losses will be caused by
24 our continued reliance on fossil fuels. Duke

1 Energy must rapidly move to cleaner, cheaper
2 renewable energy.

3 Picture a North Carolina where
4 larger, wetter, more frequent hurricanes are the
5 norm. Roads and buildings will become impossible
6 to maintain on our Outer Banks. Expenses
7 associated with these efforts will be exorbitant.
8 The economic impact on tourism and jobs will be
9 tremendous. In such a North Carolina, it will
10 frequently be too hot for children to play
11 outside. Migrant workers after laboring in
12 temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit will
13 sleep at night in temperatures that are well into
14 the 80's. The current trend from warmer nights
15 in North Carolina will become a health threat
16 for the homeless, for migrant workers, and other
17 laborers.

18 Other public health risks also
19 exist. Mosquito transmitted diseases such as
20 dengue fever and zika virus are likely in North
21 Carolina due to warmer weather and growing
22 populations of the mosquito, aedes aegypti.

23 Urban heat island such as Raleigh
24 will experience even stronger warming. The

1 average North Carolina temperature will be
2 10 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the average
3 temperature was in the 1970's. We will -- North
4 Carolina will experience 30 days per year with a
5 heat index greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit
6 versus the historical average of seven days.

7 More frequent intense rains will
8 dissolve and spread pollutants, nutrients and
9 sediments that will contaminate our rivers and
10 groundwater and erode our topsoil.

11 Warmer water temperatures will
12 promote more rapid microbial growth and reduce
13 water quality of lakes and rivers and estuaries.
14 Warmer water temperatures will increase toxic
15 algae blooms creating a risk to humans and
16 wildlife. Millions of people, largely from south
17 Florida and other coastal areas and even central
18 America will become a stream of climate refugees
19 moving to higher ground. Central North
20 Carolina's infrastructure will be strained to
21 meet the demand of many refugees. We will need
22 to become more conservative in our use of water
23 and other resources to ensure that our water
24 supply can meet the demand from a rapidly growing

1 population.

2 I will now switch my focus to some
3 of the flaws in Duke's IRP. Duke's current IRP
4 fails to address climate change and fails to
5 reduce taxpayer energy burdens on the poor. Duke
6 is the number two source of carbon pollution from
7 the U.S. utilities sector emitting 100 million
8 tons of CO2 annually. They can and should do
9 better. Duke's estimates for the cost of
10 continued use of fossil fuels fails to adequately
11 estimate the true cost of anticipated carbon
12 taxes. Duke over-inflates true energy costs in
13 their IRP by limiting the use of clean energy
14 sources, which are far less expensive.

15 (Timer)

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Powell, if you
17 can wrap up there with a sentence or two, let's do
18 that.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. We ask that
20 the North Carolina Utilities Commission not approve
21 Duke's proposed IRP. Instead, we ask that they demand
22 that Duke submit an IRP that supports the North
23 Carolina and Biden plans for addressing climate
24 change.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Powell, thank
2 you very much. If you've got additional material that
3 you weren't able to get in, of course, I remind you
4 again that you're free to file that, a written
5 statement with that additional material with the
6 Commission Clerk and it will become part of this
7 record as well.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Are there any
10 questions for Ms. Powell?

11 (Pause).

12 I don't see any questions.

13 (The witness is excused)

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: So, Mr. Josey,
15 let's take the next witness then, please.

16 MR. JOSEY: The next witness is Jane
17 Yokoyama.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Yokoyama, are
19 you there?

20 MS. YOKOYAMA: Yes, I am. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We can hear you
22 fine, so let's swear you in.

23 JANE YOKOYAMA;
24 having been duly affirmed,

1 testified as follows:

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey,
3 proceed.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

5 Q Will you please provide your name, address and
6 electric provider?

7 A My name is Jane Yokoyama. I live at 387 Pearson
8 Drive in Asheville, North Carolina, and I believe
9 my energy provider is Dominion through Duke.

10 Q Thank you. You can provide your statement now.

11 A Thank you. First, thank you for allowing me to
12 voice my concerns about Duke's Integrated
13 Resource Plan. I also want to say I've been
14 listening to the testimony from the very
15 beginning today and I hope the Commission
16 recognizes how all of us who are speaking are
17 speaking with passion from our hearts. We have
18 really done our research to look at the facts
19 about this and are very concerned about this
20 plan.

21 My husband and I are Duke
22 ratepayers and my husband does own stock in Duke.
23 I am surprised Duke plans to use coal until 2049
24 and to build up to 13 natural gas plants. This

1 goes against North Carolina's climate goal to
2 reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and
3 entirely limit fossil fuels by 2050.

4 In the City of Asheville where I
5 live, we've declared a climate change as an
6 emergency and have a goal to power all municipal
7 operations with renewable energy by 2030.

8 Buncombe County has a community-wide goal of
9 having the entire county powered by renewable
10 energy by 2042. As you probably know, there are
11 other North Carolina cities and counties that
12 also recognize the need to reduce our carbon
13 footprint and have clean energy goals that rely
14 on the removal of fossil fuels.

15 From a climate in-house
16 perspective, why would Duke want to continue its
17 dubious distinction of being the largest climate
18 polluter in the State. Future natural gas plants
19 through fracking will release tremendous amounts
20 of the potent greenhouse gas methane. There are
21 also the potential dangers of chemicals used to
22 extract the natural gas as well as the pollution
23 of the air and groundwater with carcinogenic
24 substances such as benzene.

1 The outdated coal burning plants
2 not only release carbon dioxide but also release
3 soot, sulfur dioxide and heavy metals into the
4 air. Coal plants also discharge wastewater
5 containing mercury and arsenic. Toxic coal ash
6 has polluted drinking water. This pollution
7 impacts the health of all North Carolinians but
8 especially low-income communities and people of
9 color who live near those sites.

10 From an economic perspective, why
11 would Duke invest in outdated and costly sources
12 of energy production? The cost of maintaining
13 current coal plants as well as constructing new
14 gas plants are passed onto us the ratepayers. In
15 this state, solar is already less expensive than
16 coal, and as solar and wind energy production and
17 storage become less expensive, these natural gas
18 plants will become obsolete.

19 Our family has already recognized
20 the value of solar energy and purchased solar
21 panels for a home. We also live in an energy
22 efficient house and drive hybrid cars. This is
23 the right thing for us to do and it's the right
24 thing for our planet.

1 I want Duke to retire their coal
2 plants no later than 2030 and commit to solar and
3 other clean energy sources for the future.

4 As a retired science educator, I
5 see how little time there is left for our current
6 reliance on fossil fuels will result in
7 irreversible climate change and its catastrophic
8 results. We, including Duke, should not be part
9 of the problem but part of the solution.

10 Thank you for taking my testimony.
11 And I sincerely hope you listen to everyone who
12 is speaking today and, in the future, about how
13 much we care about our environment and how we
14 want Duke to do the right thing. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
16 Ms. Yokoyama, for giving up your time this evening and
17 sharing with us your views. You can be sure that we
18 are listening very intently to all of our speakers
19 this evening. So, thank you for coming.

20 Are there any questions for Ms. Yokoyama?

21 (No response)

22 THE WITNESS: I appreciate that.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you for
24 being with us.

1 (The witness is excused)

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, I want
3 to check with you, because I'm always mindful of
4 making sure our court reporter has an adequate chance
5 to rest her fingers, how many more callers do we have
6 with us?

7 MR. JOSEY: It looks like we have
8 seven callers that are listed -- eight, excuse me, and
9 we have three unidentified callers that we could try
10 to identify during a break, or we could just wait
11 until the end.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Mitchell, how
13 are you doing? Would you like a break right about
14 now? I'll tell you what let's do. Let's do this,
15 let's break at -- my clock shows that it's 7:38 right
16 now, let's break until 7:45 to give Mr. Josey and
17 Mr. McCoy a chance to see if they can identify those
18 other three callers and see if they're on our list of
19 registered speakers so we know whether we've got them
20 with us or not. And, Ms. Mitchell, that will give you
21 a chance to stretch and rest your hands. And we'll
22 come back at 7:45. Please turn off your video and put
23 your audio on mute while we're on break. Thank you.

24 (A recess was taken from 7:38 p.m.)

1 to 7:45 p.m.)

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let's see if we
3 can find Mr. Josey. Are you --

4 MR. JOSEY: I'm here.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: What can you
6 report?

7 MR. JOSEY: We identified we only have one
8 unidentified caller by the time we started the break
9 and it is Caller Number 4, Jeffrey Becker.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We skipped
11 Mr. Becker because he wasn't with us then.

12 MR. JOSEY: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: But since he's the
14 next in order or actually he was earlier in order
15 let's go back and pick up with him and let's call
16 Jeffrey Becker.

17 Mr. Becker, are you there?

18 (No response)

19 Mr. McCoy, can we get him unmuted?

20 MR. BECKER: I am here.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great.

22 Mr. Becker, thank you. We're sorry we missed you
23 earlier. Let's give you the oath please.

24 JEFFREY BECKER;

1 having been duly affirmed,

2 testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey,
4 proceed.

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

6 Q Can you please provide your name, address and
7 electricity provider for the record?

8 A Yes, sure. Jeffrey Becker. My address is 3225
9 Sunbright Lane in Raleigh, North Carolina, and my
10 electric provider is Duke Energy Progress.

11 Q Thank you. You can provide your statement.

12 A Thank you so much. Members of the Commission,
13 thank you for being the ears that we need to
14 really express our deep concerns.

15 I want to take a little bit of a
16 different tact tonight. I have two autistic
17 children. I'm a single parent. Quinton who has
18 mild autism and Alexandra whose autism is
19 moderate to severe. With autistic kids thinking
20 tends to be all or nothing, kind of black and
21 white. Now, all kids are like that to some
22 extent, but autistic kids are especially prone to
23 that kind of black and white thinking, so I spend
24 a lot of time explaining the grays in life,

1 especially to Quinton. But I have to say that
2 with this IRP from Duke, it's really hard to
3 explain to them the grays of the things that are
4 going wrong with this.

5 I want to just sort of look at
6 this through the lens of house rules. Some rules
7 for -- in an autistic household are, for example,
8 no lying. Now, Duke will be building new gas
9 plants through 2035. That's more carbon dioxide
10 in the air. And they've said that solar battery
11 storage costs four times that of gas. Well, one
12 of the things that we do in my household is we go
13 shopping and we shop around and comparison cost.
14 And battery storage cost, it's 70 percent lower
15 between 2015 and 2018, and solar costs have gone
16 down 82 percent in 2010. So, in our house
17 fudging numbers is really lying and that's not a
18 good sign.

19 Another rule that we have is no
20 slacking. Duke wants to reduce carbon emissions
21 by 50 percent by 2030 and net zero by 2050, but
22 there's all kinds of energy companies doing much
23 better than that. A couple of examples, Xcel
24 Energy, 90 percent of 2005 levels by 2030; WEC

1 Energy Group, 70 percent of 2005 levels by 2030.
2 You know, we're not asking Duke to be a trail
3 blazer, we're actually just asking them to get on
4 board.

5 There is one house rule in our
6 house that I would like to change, that is don't
7 try to keep up with the Joneses. But in this
8 case, I would say definitely do try to keep up
9 with the Joneses, because if you consider Idaho
10 which is a pretty conservative state and
11 76 percent of their electricity generation comes
12 from renewables.

13 I only bring all this up because
14 if a house is a public trust and you break
15 multiple rules of the public trust, I think the
16 appropriate discipline should probably be a
17 reset -- you know, so and I think rejecting this
18 IRP might be the best reset to do. It's not a
19 very gray issue.

20 I just want to talk quickly about
21 climate change from an autistic child's point of
22 view. Alexandra calls covid the sickness and she
23 wants a party when it's all over. But there's
24 really no end to climate change in her lifetime,

1 it just depends on how bad it will get. And some
2 of the things that she's going to have to face
3 are extinctions. You know, kids love animals.
4 For autistic kids, they are especially important
5 because depictions of animals can help show
6 autistic kids' emotions which is very vital to
7 their social interactions. There may be days at
8 autism camp where they have to go indoors because
9 the heat index is too high. Blackouts and
10 brownouts and grid failures from the heat and
11 precipitation, they are really scary to an
12 autistic child, and housing damage and shelters
13 from things like stronger hurricanes or more
14 frequent floods. You know, just picture an
15 autistic child in a shelter - the amount of
16 noise, no structure, the constant stimulation,
17 multiple interactions with people - it's all just
18 a nightmare.

19 And I'm presenting this particular
20 point of view because it doesn't get presented
21 very often. I just wouldn't wish any of this on
22 any of our children and in my case my children
23 with disabilities with autism. I wouldn't want
24 to wish Duke's IRP and what it will bring to them

1 in their lifetime.

2 So, what comes out of your house
3 affects your neighborhood because we're all so
4 interconnected, and Duke affects North Carolina
5 in the world. So, we need an IRP that retires
6 coal-fired plants by 2030, no new gas-fired
7 plants; we need to increase the percentage of
8 renewables; and we need an IRP that just goes by
9 the guiding science. It's out there. It's not a
10 new thing.

11 I do want to thank the Commission
12 again for being our listening ears. And that's
13 the end of my statement.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
15 Mr. Becker. We're glad you were able -- we were able
16 to catch you this evening and get you back in line
17 here. So, we appreciate your statement this evening.

18 Are there any questions from anyone for
19 Mr. Becker?

20 (No response)

21 Thank you again for being with us this
22 evening, Mr. Becker.

23 Mr. Josey?

24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

1 (The witness is excused)

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Next witness?

3 MR. JOSEY: We'll jump back down to number
4 24, which is Hope Taylor.

5 MS. TAYLOR: I'm here.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Taylor, we can
7 hear you, so let's get you sworn, please.

8 HOPE TAYLOR;

9 having been duly affirmed,

10 testified as follows:

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

13 Q Can you please provide your name, address and
14 electricity provider for the record?

15 A I'm Hope Taylor, residing at 1588 Jack Clement
16 Road, Stem, North Carolina, where I'm a customer
17 of Duke Energy Progress. At the nonprofit Clean
18 Water for North Carolina located at 3325
19 Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard in Durham, we are a
20 customer of Duke Energy Carolinas.

21 Q Thank you. You can provide your statement.

22 A As a scienced-based environmental justice
23 organization that has worked for fair and
24 affordable rates and to prevent the worst impacts

1 of coal-fired power plants and the worst effects
2 of climate change, and which has proposed an
3 independently administered energy efficiency
4 administrator for our state, Clean Water for
5 North Carolina is spectacularly disappointed by
6 the IRP scenarios filed by Duke, including
7 allowing the continued operation of coal-fired
8 power plants. This completely ignores the
9 continuing impacts of coal ash, a completely
10 foreseeable waste about which Duke should have
11 taken action decades ago, and the cleanup for
12 which shareholders should have been required to
13 take most of the financial responsibility, as
14 well as ignoring the highest carbon dioxide
15 emissions per unit electrical energy generated.

16 The continuing climate changing
17 emissions from these plants would mandate
18 shutting all coal-fired power plants, many
19 operating with low capacity factors at this time
20 at considerable expense for ratepayers within the
21 next two to three years rather than keeping them
22 operating for many years to come.

23 The plan to build new gas-powered
24 generating facilities in this time of urgently

1 needed climate action is clearly in contempt of
2 urgently needed climate action given the methane
3 releases that will be contributed both by
4 fugitive emissions from supplied pipelines as
5 well as from equipment at the power plants
6 themselves. Any new investments in fossil fuel
7 generation and infrastructure will soon become
8 stranded assets as Duke and Dominion belatedly
9 realized in June of last year when they shut down
10 the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project. And if such
11 investments are approved, ratepayers should be --
12 would be forced to pay for them in addition to
13 ill-gotten profits at their own expense.

14 One impact of fossil fuel and
15 nuclear power plants is that their continuing
16 excessive thermal impacts on the hundreds of
17 millions of gallons of the public's waters that
18 are withdrawn every day and returned to rivers
19 and reservoirs hot enough to impair aquatic
20 biological systems and even to evaporate tens of
21 millions of gallons of our waters every day.
22 This is an injustice to our ecosystems and to
23 downstream water users that provisions of the
24 Clean Water Act should have prevented.

1 Excuse me, I just lost my place
2 there for a minute.

3 So, we are calling for the
4 diminished use of both of these kinds of
5 resources, energy generating facilities, and we
6 have reported these thermal impacts to the EPA
7 Office of Inspector General and gotten a report
8 in return that Region 4 is not adequately
9 supervising variances in North Carolina.

10 We all know that monopoly
11 utilities are allowed profits as a percent of
12 their approved expenditures so that they will
13 always choose to make the highest possible
14 capital expenditures which means building
15 expensive new power plants and infrastructure
16 knowing that they can maximize those profits.

17 The Utilities Commission must
18 disapprove this IRP and demand more responsible
19 planning for the ratepayers, the environment of
20 North Carolina and the global environment.

21 Finally, Duke has shown an
22 unwillingness to implement efficiency measures
23 for renewable energy either in generating
24 facilities or point of views at more than the

1 tragically low expectations required by the
2 renewable and efficient -- energy efficiency
3 provisions of 2007 legislation.

4 The Commission must require
5 implementation of both efficiency at immediately
6 higher rates and increasing by over 1 percent per
7 year and aggressively increase the portfolio of
8 renewable energy and storage in order to have a
9 prayer of meeting North Carolina's expectations
10 of carbon net zero economy by 2050, much less the
11 expectation of most states to achieve carbon-free
12 electrical generation by 2030.

13 The North Carolina Utilities
14 Commission must disapprove the filed IRP, which
15 fails both the test of least cost and equitable
16 energy generation and of environmental justice
17 and climate protection, and it must demonstrate
18 the commitment to the public and the public
19 interest, both in terms of keeping rates
20 affordable and fair and in protecting the health
21 and environment of North Carolina, and climate
22 stability for all of us. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
24 Ms. Taylor. We appreciate your coming tonight and

1 participating.

2 Are there questions for Ms. Taylor from the
3 Commission or from the parties?

4 (No response)

5 If not, Ms. Taylor, again thank you.

6 (The witness is excused)

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, you may
8 call your next witness.

9 MR. JOSEY: Our next witness is Elizabeth
10 Pape.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Pape, are you
12 there?

13 MS. PAPE: Hello. I am.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes, we can hear
15 you. We can hear you. Let me give you the oath
16 please.

17 ELIZABETH PAPE;
18 having been duly affirmed,
19 testified as follows:

20 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MS. PAPE:

21 To save time, my name is Elizabeth Pape. I
22 live at 10 Morning Dew Drive in Woodfin, North
23 Carolina, and my provider is Duke Energy Progress.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you for your

1 efficiency.

2 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. I've been
3 striking paragraphs out so this should go quickly,
4 because many people have said what I would have said.

5 Thank you, first of all, for the opportunity
6 to talk. And now for a little bit of personal
7 history. Five years ago, when Duke was sounding
8 alarms about needing to build a peaker plant in
9 western North Carolina, my husband -- my late husband
10 and I called Sundance to install solar panels on our
11 roof to reduce a little pressure off the system. A
12 year and a half ago I convinced two of our neighbors
13 to do the same. Then a third neighbor installed his
14 own system having heard about our success. This means
15 that 40 percent of all the homeowners in my
16 neighborhood have gone solar. And irony of ironies,
17 Duke wants to build not one but 13 fracked gas plants.
18 Honestly, are you kidding me? I'm \$26,000 out and
19 they won't invest in solar. GM, Ford, and Volvo will
20 be building only EV cars in five or 10 years. Does
21 Duke really think it's a good idea to build more
22 gas-powered plants over 15 years? Think again!

23 Stop Duke from investing in antiquated
24 technologies that cost the customers more and are

1 environmentally damaging by both extracting and
2 burning the fuel. If old women like me think it's a
3 good, sound investment to switch to solar, what do you
4 suppose our kids and grandchildren think? Send Duke
5 back to the drawing board and to do something that
6 benefits Duke's customers and their stockholders.
7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
9 Ms. Pape.

10 Are there any questions from Commissioners
11 or from the parties?

12 (No response)

13 Ms. Pape, thank you for your patience and
14 bearing with us this evening. We appreciate your
15 participating.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you for listening.
17 Goodnight.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Goodnight.

19 (The witness is excused)

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, you may
21 call your next witness.

22 MR. JOSEY: Eric Stein.

23 MR. STEIN: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Stein, are you

1 there? Great.

2 MR. STEIN: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We can hear you
4 fine. Let's give you the oath.

5 ERIC STEIN;

6 having been duly affirmed,

7 testified as follows:

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey.

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

10 Q Would you please provide your name, address and
11 electricity provider for the record?

12 A My name is Eric Stein. I'm with -- I'm at 900
13 Vista Lake Drive, Candler, North Carolina 28715,
14 and I'm with Duke Energy Progress.

15 Q Thank you. You can provide your statement.

16 A Sounds great. Well, I want to thank the North
17 Carolina Utilities Commission this evening. It's
18 a great opportunity for public input with
19 stakeholders and residents of North Carolina.

20 Duke Energy must immediately
21 retire their remaining coal plants if we want Roy
22 Cooper's Clean Energy Plan, Executive Order 80 to
23 be a success. We must reduce greenhouse gas
24 emissions 70 percent below 2005 levels by 2030

1 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 so we can
2 avoid continuous dangerous ramifications of
3 climate change.

4 In order to achieve Biden's goals
5 having 100 percent of our electricity powered by
6 renewable energy sources by 2035, we would have
7 to phase out all fossil fuel sources. We need to
8 keep global temperatures from rising 1.5 degrees
9 to 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial
10 levels if we want to be in line with the Paris
11 Accords and prevent catastrophic consequences.

12 Duke's reliance on gas combustion
13 facilitates the continual release of carbon
14 dioxide into the air as we discussed and releases
15 extremely potent methane during fracking. We
16 must phase this out, like I said, if we want
17 North Carolina to succeed in its clean energy
18 goal and its climate goals, and for Duke's energy
19 goals as I stated earlier.

20 Burning fossil fuels will increase
21 respiratory health problems for North Carolina
22 residents, especially for low-income communities
23 and minority communities. And North Carolina is
24 actually fourth in the country for hospital

1 admissions - heart attacks and mortality from
2 coal pollution. Coal burning releases dangerous
3 levels of soot, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide,
4 heavy metals, the wastewater and coal operations,
5 the discharge, all of this into our lakes and
6 waters and streams. Coal ash also has been
7 poisoning our drinking water sources. This must
8 change as soon as possible. Retiring aging coal
9 plants will save customers billions of dollars
10 over the next decade.

11 Solar is the most cost-effective
12 energy source. And a recent study from *Energy*
13 *Innovation* illustrated that North Carolina could
14 boost its renewable energy to 66 percent by 2035,
15 while reducing costs for ratepayers. Solar
16 energy's cost per kilowatt hour fell
17 82 percent in a decade and it's still decreasing.

18 Our state is the second state in
19 the country after California for installed solar
20 capacity for goodness sakes. We need to tap into
21 this free energy resource that the sun gives us.

22 We also should invest in wind, I
23 mean, in addition North Carolina ranks first
24 among Atlantic states for offshore wind

1 potential. The Kitty Hawk offshore wind project
2 is already in development. And cities across --
3 cities and counties across North Carolina, so
4 there's Wake County, Buncombe County, Rowan,
5 Orange County, Durham, and many others have
6 strong -- they already have strong renewable
7 energy goals and climate goals. And as we
8 discussed earlier, Asheville has already declared
9 a climate emergency with new policies. That's
10 the first in North Carolina to do so.

11 I just want to say on a personal
12 note, my grandfather was a coal miner for 44
13 years in western Pennsylvania many years ago.
14 He's one of the hardest workers I've ever met.
15 During -- he was a foreman in the mine and during
16 his time there he saw the worst of what coal
17 power could actually do to people. He saw the
18 horror of black lung disease among the people he
19 worked with. Luckily, he didn't get it but many
20 of his coworkers got it and suffered because of
21 that. He saw how destructive this was. And
22 after he retired, he honestly wished he could
23 work in the renewable energy industry, but it
24 wasn't available at the time when he was working.

1 He's not alive right now but if he were alive
2 today, he would advocate for 100 percent
3 renewable energy for all of America and North
4 Carolina if he were here today. He told me this
5 back in the -- when he was in his '80's, back
6 in -- before 2007.

7 Duke Energy has the power and
8 resources to rapidly shift to 100 percent
9 renewable energy goal and clean energy future and
10 we can accelerate our efforts.

11 I ask the Commissioners to hold
12 Duke Energy accountable and dramatically speed up
13 our transition to clean energy. We must act in
14 the sense of urgency. Thank you very much.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
16 Mr. Stein for your statement this evening.

17 Does anyone have questions for Mr. Stein?

18 (No response)

19 If not, sir, again thank you. You may stay
20 with us or go about your business this evening. We
21 appreciate your being with us.

22 Mr. Josey --

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 (The witness is excused)

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Who do you have
2 next?

3 MR. JOSEY: Denise Frizzell.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Frizzell, are
5 you there?

6 MS. FRIZZELL: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let's give
8 you the oath, please.

9 DENISE FRIZZELL;
10 having been duly affirmed,
11 testified as follows:

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey,
13 proceed.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

15 Q Can you please provide your name, address and
16 electricity provider for the record?

17 A Denise Frizzell, 55 Fortunes Ridge Drive, Durham,
18 and I believe it's Duke Energy Carolinas.

19 Q Thank you. You may give your statement.

20 A Yes. First, I'd like to thank members of the
21 Commission and Duke Energy for their
22 contributions to the generation and distribution
23 of electricity that powers our lives, something I
24 and I think others often take for granted.

1 Having said that though, it also appears that
2 Duke officials are taking climate stability,
3 breathable air, clean water, and an overall
4 healthy planet earth for granted as if our shared
5 life support system will always be there to
6 maintain the Company's fossil fuel dependent
7 bottom line. I would like to see Duke leaders
8 look our children in the eyes and tell them that
9 their business-as-usual approach represented in
10 this latest IRP is sane, responsible, just, and
11 sustainable in the face of humanity's climate and
12 other ecological and social crises.

13 As a person of faith, I would like
14 to highlight American biblical scholar and
15 theologian Walter Wink's seminal work on the
16 powers in which he proposed that corporations and
17 governments are entities whose sole purpose is to
18 serve the general welfare. And when they refuse
19 to do so, their spirit becomes diseased or
20 "demonic". He wrote in his book *The Powers That*
21 *Be* which I highly recommend, "I had never been
22 able to take demons seriously. The idea that
23 fallen spirits possess people seemed
24 superstitious, but if the demonic is produced

1 when the spirit of an institution turns its back
2 on its divine vocation then I could not only
3 believe in the demonic, I could point to its
4 presence in everyday life. And if the demonic
5 arises when a spirit deviates from its calling
6 then social change does not depend on casting out
7 the demon but recalling its spirit to its divine
8 task."

9 So instead of using the rest of my
10 time on specific technical arguments, I would
11 like to recall the collective spirit of Duke
12 Energy and the Commission, which includes not
13 only current company leaders and Commissioners,
14 to boldly lead in and through this ILP (sic), not
15 hinder or lag behind in the great work of
16 transitioning our electrical grid to one that is
17 truly just and sustainable so that current and
18 future generations can thrive because after all,
19 as stated on the Company's website, "Energy is
20 about more than keeping the lights on".

21 Thank you all and blessings to you
22 all and may you have the courage, the wisdom and
23 compassion to put the general welfare over greed
24 and profits by rejecting this IRP and porting --

1 putting forth one that better represents the
2 higher spirit of Duke Energy and North Carolina.

3 I am complete. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
5 Ms. Frizzell, for your statement this evening.

6 Does anyone have any questions for
7 Ms. Frizzell?

8 (No response)

9 Okay. Again, thank you very much for
10 staying with us this evening and for your statement.
11 We appreciate it.

12 (The witness is excused)

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

14 MR. JOSEY: Yes. Our next witness is Hope
15 Bleecker.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Bleecker, can
17 you hear me okay?

18 MS. BLEECKER: Yes. Hello, can you hear me?

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You're just fine,
20 so let's give you the oath.

21 HOPE BLEECKER;

22 having been duly affirmed,

23 testified as follows:

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

2 Q Will you please provide your name, address and
3 electricity provider for the record?

4 A Yes, thank you. I'm at 1341 U.S. 64-74A in
5 Rutherfordton, North Carolina. My provider is
6 Duke Energy Carolinas I believe.

7 Q Okay, thank you. You may give your statement.

8 A Thank you. I'm a 24-year career city planner
9 with a focus on alternative transportation. I
10 wanted to speak with you tonight to thank you so
11 much for your role in public service, and also to
12 share with you my thoughts on the IRP.

13 Throughout my career, I've worked
14 with municipal clients largely in the arena of
15 bus transit logistics and in engineering
16 capacities as an environmental justice planner
17 where I focused on lead certified facilities that
18 are also capable of running off grid with power
19 disconnected from natural gas.

20 I'd like you to boldly lead our
21 world to use only battery power wind and solar as
22 a power source. Period.

23 My husband and I lost our home due
24 to wrecked plumbing and foundation damage as a

1 result of fracking which occurred in Arboles,
2 Colorado, when I was the Director of
3 Transportation in Durango, Colorado. Arboles is
4 a rural area located in the southern region of
5 Colorado near Durango, which is fracked by the
6 southern Indian tribe.

7 Throughout the United States,
8 pipelines and flare stacks are routinely located
9 beneath poor and lower-to-middle income
10 communities and they're also located all over
11 rural parts of America.

12 Energy companies are well aware
13 that fracking is toxic. And Duke also knows that
14 leaked methane into water sources when it is
15 either inhaled or consumed in food results in
16 numerous types of environmental cancer and in
17 many cases, it sabotages prenatal development as
18 well. So, in addition to the harmful practices
19 of combusting methane, fracking in North America
20 is driving us to the global climate crisis as
21 you've heard.

22 I'll strike that paragraph because
23 numerous speakers have talked about that. But I
24 want to remind you that the best scientists in

1 the world concur that a 2.7 rate of methane
2 leakage is worse than the other enemy which is
3 coal.

4 So, there's no way to fix fracking
5 leaks that are killing the environment. I mean,
6 the practice requires leakage, and changing or
7 modifying the way that it's done is just a choice
8 between two different evils. There's always
9 something that's going to happen that's in
10 adverse -- that's an adverse outcome.

11 So, for you decision makers this
12 evening, I'd really like to see you tell Duke and
13 other energy companies across North Carolina that
14 there's one way forward and that's to stop using
15 coal-powered infrastructure or natural gas and
16 focus on solarizing and doing clean energy with
17 batteries only.

18 I really have faith in my work and
19 in my reading that since Nikola Tesla provided
20 that free energy is a reality, one day soon we
21 really will stop using utility companies and we
22 will have batteries which will be capable of
23 powering our own individual homes off grid. I'm
24 working toward that goal personally now.

1 But I really felt compelled to
2 call you today just to remind you about these
3 potential health hazards and the numerous adverse
4 outcomes that will come if you do not stop Duke
5 from using -- from creating energy out of fossil
6 fuels. Thank you so much.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
8 Ms. Bleecker.

9 Are there any questions for Ms. Bleecker
10 this evening from anyone?

11 (No response)

12 If not, Ms. Bleecker, thank you again for
13 your statement this evening. We appreciate it.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you for the opportunity
15 to come and thank you all very much for your public
16 service. I appreciate it.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you.

18 (The witness is excused)

19 Mr. Josey, who's next?

20 MR. JOSEY: Next is Caller 30, Emily Keel.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Keel, can you
22 hear me okay?

23 MS. KEEL: I can. I am right here.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's great.

1 Let's get you sworn in then.

2 EMILY KEEL;

3 having been duly affirmed,

4 testified as follows:

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey,
6 continue.

7 MR. JOSEY: Yes.

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

9 Q Can you please provide your name, address and
10 your electricity provider for the record?

11 A Yes. I am Emily Keel. I am from Robersonville
12 in Martin County, and my Duke -- Duke supplies
13 energy to Electricities which is part of Martin
14 County.

15 So, I'd like to thank the
16 Utilities Commission for offering this chance --
17 go ahead. Sorry.

18 Q I was just going to say you may provide your
19 statement.

20 A Thank you. I'd like to thank you for allowing me
21 the chance to do that and for allowing all of us
22 to speak about the energy plan. For me, it was
23 quite a shock to hear that Duke proposed to build
24 possibly 30 additional fracked gas plants,

1 actually investing more in them than in renewable
2 energy production, completely flying in the face
3 of the evidence and our rapid slide into
4 irreversible climate catastrophe, and a shameful
5 fact that Duke has proposed the most fracked gas
6 plants and the least renewables of any energy
7 sources in the nation. And more gas plants
8 means, of course, as others have said more
9 pipelines, more leaks, more endangered water
10 supplies, more methane with its powerful effect
11 on climate warming. And, of course, if they're
12 given the ability to construct these gas plants
13 and they are later removed from service by
14 appropriately restrictive laws, Duke will still
15 get a charge to recover their cost. Maybe that
16 suits them just fine. I personally feel like
17 that is public death and you know it feels like
18 someone is holding a knife to our throats. We
19 demand that Duke commit to no new gas.

20 Our community has a large number
21 of low-income citizens for whom paying the
22 utility bill is such a burden. Offering some
23 home energy efficiency programs, weatherization
24 or cost-saving community solar plans could be

1 transformative for many of these people. That
2 would be a remarkable undertaking by the energy
3 company to decrease the burden on many people.

4 In the evaluation that I've seen
5 of their IRP, there's an appalling lack of
6 accuracy in the estimates that Duke has reported
7 for the cost of storage of solar energy versus
8 gas-fired power plants. The independent
9 engineers that have given thought to this and
10 evaluated it have given much lower estimates for
11 storage, which will cause none of the water or
12 air pollution or coal residue that have resulted
13 from Duke's preferred energy pursuits. They're
14 saying that it will lower CO2 emissions by using
15 gas instead of coal but that will actually lower
16 CO2 and raise methane which, as many have said
17 tonight is worse, and depending on leakage could
18 be even worse for our climate crisis.

19 And I just want to echo the
20 previous comments about Duke's failure to come
21 close to meeting the State's climate goals and
22 its continued reliance on so much fossil fuel.

23 We call on Duke to commit to a
24 sustainable and just energy future that the

1 Company retire coal and replace harmful fossil
2 fuel infrastructure with renewables. And to
3 members of the Utilities Commission we ask,
4 please, for the safety and the health of our
5 people, reject these bullets to construct in the
6 IRPs. Your decision on this matter is so
7 important, crucial to our safety and wellbeing,
8 and we beg you to require more accuracy and more
9 consideration of the future of our air, water and
10 soil.

11 Thank you for the time you have
12 allowed me to speak and for taking -- and for
13 your taking the time to evaluate this. Thank you
14 so much.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you,
16 Ms. Keel. Thank you for your statement this evening.

17 Are there questions for Ms. Keel?

18 (Pause).

19 I don't see any, so we'll release you to
20 stay and continue to watch or go about your business
21 this evening. Thank you for being here.

22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

23 (The witness is excused)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, who's

1 next?

2 MR. JOSEY: Yes. We have Dean Donley. And
3 I believe this is our last witness.

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Donley, are
6 you there?

7 MS. DONLEY: Yes. This is Mrs. Donley,
8 Nancy Donley. Uh-huh.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I apologize. You
10 caught me; Dean is one of those names that can play
11 both ways so I'm sorry.

12 MS. DONLEY: It can go either way, right.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's right.
14 Thank you, Ms. Donley.

15 NANCY DONLEY;
16 having been duly affirmed,
17 testified as follows:

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey?

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JOSEY:

20 Q Will you please provide your name, address and
21 electricity provider for the record?

22 A Yes. My name is Nancy Donley. I live at 81 Pine
23 Ridge Drive in Whispering Pines, North Carolina.

24 Q Thank you. You may give your statement.

1 A Okay. And I am a customer of Duke Progress
2 Energy. We've lived here in North Carolina for
3 21 years. First, I would like to say that I am
4 not a scientist, but I do believe in science with
5 a capital "S" and science tells me that our
6 planet is in big trouble and we can see that here
7 in North Carolina with our own eyes, the mounting
8 evidence of the dangers of climate change with
9 rising temperatures and storms that have been
10 referred to, fires and flooding.

11 I do know enough that we have to
12 realize we have to reduce our carbon footprints,
13 and I try to do that with small personal
14 decisions like reducing the use of plastic, et
15 cetera, but we really need help now of government
16 and corporations.

17 I've always supported lawmakers
18 who are environmentally friendly and the ones who
19 acknowledge the urgency of the climate crisis and
20 who have plans to address it, like Governor
21 Cooper's Executive Order for transitioning to a
22 clean energy economy and, of course, President
23 Biden's policies and proposals. So, when I heard
24 that my energy company was presenting its

1 Integrated Resource Plan for North Carolina for
2 the next 15 years, I was really eager to read it
3 with hopes that Duke Energy and our state could
4 lead the way toward a clean energy economy. So
5 please, imagine my disappointment when I saw that
6 instead of transitioning to clean power, they
7 were going backwards by planning on building many
8 more dirty gas plants to pollute our environment,
9 so I felt like I had to be here to voice my
10 opposition to Duke's plans.

11 This coming few years are so
12 critical to reducing our greenhouse gas
13 emissions. I don't see really any way possible
14 that Duke's plans can enable us to limit the
15 warming of the planet. They must eliminate coal,
16 of course, and fossil fuel infrastructure. As a
17 company acting in the public interest, Duke
18 Energy also should end all political spending,
19 funding their lobbyists and the regulators of
20 their monopoly. We can do so much better than
21 this in North Carolina.

22 On a more encouraging note, I was
23 pleasantly surprised to read in Sunday's paper
24 that my hometown where I grew up, Orlando,

1 Florida, was mentioned in an earth day article as
2 being a rock star leader in solar power. The
3 City has solar co-ops for bulk pricing on home
4 solar systems and a low fund -- a loan fund for
5 low-income communities to help with their home
6 improvements like water heaters and attic fans.
7 Solar powers more than 10 percent of that city's
8 municipal electricity demand.

9 For our whole state, Duke's energy
10 plan gets only 5 percent of its electricity from
11 renewables, and the national average now of all
12 states is more than 20 percent. Duke Energy,
13 please go back to the drawing table and come up
14 with a plan that makes us a climate resilient
15 state.

16 Like everyone else who's spoken
17 here, I want a better future for our
18 grandchildren and their future children; a safe,
19 clean, healthy world with a sustainable
20 environment. As the young folks say, 'there is
21 no planet B'.

22 Thank you for letting me have this
23 time to voice my opinion on this.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: And thank you,

1 Ms. Donley, for your patience and staying with us this
2 evening and making your statement.

3 Do Commissioners or the parties have any
4 questions for Ms. Donley?

5 (No response)

6 Again, thank you, Ms. Donley, for being with
7 us this evening.

8 THE WITNESS: And thanks for letting me give
9 my testimony. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You're quite
11 welcome.

12 (The witness is excused)

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Josey, do we
14 have anyone else who's registered?

15 MR. JOSEY: No, sir. That was the last
16 witness who is on the line who has not spoken.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Well, that's
18 great. Well, that will bring us to point where we're
19 going to recess for the hearing, this hearing for the
20 evening. Let me remind those of you who are following
21 us on YouTube that the next session of this public
22 hearing will be on Wednesday, May the 5th. Again,
23 we'll begin at 6:00 p.m., and the link to the YouTube
24 video for that session is the same, it will be on the

1 Commission's website.

2 So again, thanks everyone who participated
3 in this evening. Thanks to all of our callers and our
4 speakers and to all of our staff. And with that, we
5 will conclude for the evening. Thank you all. We are
6 adjourned.

7 (The proceedings were adjourned)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KIM MITCHELL, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the Proceedings in the above-captioned matter were taken before me, that I did report in stenographic shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein, and the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription to the best of my ability.

Kim Mitchell

Kim Mitchell