

From: [Wright](#)
To: [Statements](#)
Subject: Docket # E-2 Sub 1219
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Duke Energy Progress (DEP) is seeking approval from the North Carolina Utilities Commission of a \$463.6 million increase in the amount Duke can collect from its ratepayers each year (\$585.9M total - \$120.2M federal tax benefits)—representing an overall 12.3% increase. Their proposed rate increases exclude any direct investment in renewable energy or energy efficiency.

A significant amount of the proposed rate hike is based on costs of coal ash cleanup at the Asheville, Cape Fear, H.F. Lee, Mayo, Robinson, Roxboro, Sutton, and Weatherspoon. Duke estimates that its coal ash cleanup costs will be in the billions over the next 40 years. Duke's requested increase also includes the new \$820 million Asheville gas plant. We do not agree that this is appropriate or responsible and cannot support rate hikes for coal ash clean-up; this is Duke's responsibility. Duke Energy defied the advice of scientists and experts for years while disposing of its toxic coal ash in irresponsible and unsafe ways. They should bear the cost of cleaning up their own mess.

Duke seeks deferral for over \$2.3 billion to pay for its "grid improvement plan" without giving enough detail about how it plans to spend this money. Advances in renewables, paired with battery storage, are a better way to get to a distributed and more resilient energy system and should be a significant part of any grid improvement plan. The state and Duke's ratepayers have a right to know what their plan entails and to insist on substantial investment in non-fossil fuel energy sources. We are counting on the North Carolina Utilities Commission to stand with the ratepayers on this issue for the benefit of all North Carolinians.

Sincerely,

Michael and Eileen Wright

Asheville