

Mount, Gail

From: Warren Reed <wcreedh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 3:16 PM
To: Statements
Subject: In reference to docket SP-100 Sub 31

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Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I have read with interest the multitude of submissions in the matter of NCWARN's selling solar-generated power to Faith Community Church in Greensboro.

The preamble to the Public Utilities Act is worth reading as a statement of purpose and intention. I was struck by two phrases:

(a) ...it has been determined that the rates, services and operations of public utilities as defined herein, are affected with the public interest...

and the policy of the State of North Carolina (among other things) is to

10 (c) Encourage private investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

All the hi-falutin' legal niceties aside, it's difficult to argue that Duke Energy has held the public interest uppermost.

- Duke Energy plead guilty in federal court to nine criminal violations of the Clean Water Act for polluting four major rivers for several years with toxic coal ash from five power plants in North Carolina.
- Duke Energy's reliance on coal (38%) continues a long history of degradation of the environment
- In contrast, Duke Energy's 0.1% reliance on renewables indicates a failure to heed paragraph 10 (c)
- Duke Energy paid a former Progress Energy executive \$44 million in compensation, including \$10 million severance, an amount so excessive that it clearly violates the public trust.
- Duke Energy receives considerable tax rebates, despite making a profit of \$5.4 billion and increasing executive pay by 145% to \$17.2 million in 2010 for its top 5 executives.
- In Florida, Duke Energy filed suit against Citrus county, claiming it's property taxes were too high. An outside appraisal concluded that the county assessment was incorrect at \$2.32 billion; it should have been \$3.47 billion.

Those few examples lead one to conclude that Duke Energy has lost its bearings, and cannot be entrusted with our collective ambitions. Tax avoidance, criminal activity, corporate greed and environmental depredation are hardly in the public interest. In this case, Duke Energy's litigiousness serves to confirm how far it has strayed from serving the good of the community.

A monopoly is a privilege bestowed by the people for their mutual benefit, not a license to pillage

Therefore, I request that you rescind the "public utility" privilege granted to Duke Energy.

Furthermore, in the spirit of paragraph 10(c), I request that you remove any impediments to NCWARN continuing its arrangement with Faith Community Church.

If there is another form for me use in making this petition I will happily comply. I look forward to your detailed response.

Yours very truly,

Warren Reed

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