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March 28, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

**RE: Duke Energy Progress, LLC's Western Carolinas Modernization
Project Annual Report on Community Engagement and Request for
Order Accepting Final Report and Finding That No Further Reporting
is Required
Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089**

Dear Ms. Dunston:

In compliance with ordering paragraph No. 6 of the North Carolina Utilities Commission's ("Commission") March 28, 2016 *Order Granting Application in Part, with Conditions, and Denying Application in Part* ("WCMP Order"), I enclose for filing the Annual Community Engagement Report ("WCMP Annual Report") of Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP" or the "Company"), which provides the Company's accomplishments to date on efforts to work with customers in the Western Region to reduce peak load through Demand-Side Management ("DSM"), Energy Efficiency ("EE") and other measures and on DEP's efforts to site solar and storage capacity in the Western Region.

On March 28, 2023, DEP submitted its required WCMP Annual Report to the Commission and stated that, given the Company's then-pending application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") for a 9.5 megawatt ("MW") solar photovoltaic facility at the Asheville Plant ("Asheville Solar Facility") in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1311, DEP considered the March 2023 report to be the Company's final required update in compliance with the WCMP Order.

On July 20, 2023, the Commission issued an *Order Granting Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity* in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1311 ("Asheville Solar CPCN Order"), in which the Commission granted DEP's application for a CPCN for the Asheville Solar Facility. In that Order, the Commission directed DEP to provide certain additional information on the Company's efforts to promote DSM and EE Programs in DEP-West in DEP's next WCMP Annual Report. Accordingly, DEP submits the enclosed report in compliance with the Commission's directive in the Asheville Solar CPCN Order.

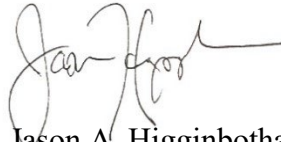
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DEP does not currently plan to construct any incremental solar or storage generation in the Asheville region, as the Company has satisfied its commitment to site 15 MW of solar generation and 5 MW of storage capacity in DEP-West. In addition, the enclosed report reflects that DEP has transitioned its efforts to promote DSM/EE programs in DEP-West to promotion of these programs in DEP as a whole in order to fully optimize the Company's outreach, participation, and cost-effectiveness. Accordingly, future WCMP Annual Reports are not likely to include meaningful updates on the specific reporting items established by the WCMP Order and the Asheville Solar CPCN Order. Therefore, DEP is including with the enclosed report a request that the Commission issue an order accepting the enclosed report as DEP's final report under the WCMP Order and Asheville Solar CPCN Order and finding that no further reporting is required.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jason A. Higginbotham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason A. Higginbotham

Enclosure

cc: Parties of Record

Duke Energy Progress, LLC
Western Carolinas Modernization Project
Annual Report on Community Engagement for Demand-Side Management,
Energy Efficiency and Technology
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I. Community Engagement for Demand-Side Management and Energy Efficiency

A. Background

Duke Energy Progress, LLC (“DEP” or “the Company”) has provided several annual updates on the Company’s community engagement to promote Demand-Side Management (“DSM”) and Energy Efficiency (“EE”) programs in DEP-West in compliance with the North Carolina Utilities Commission’s (“Commission”) March 28, 2016 *Order Granting Application in Part, with Conditions, and Denying Application in Part* in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089 (“WCMP Order”). DEP’s annual reports are referred to herein as DEP’s “WCMP Annual Report”. In its March 28, 2023 WCMP Annual Report, the Company reiterated that, through its collaboration with the community in Buncombe County and promotion of its DSM and EE programs, DEP had successfully delayed construction of a potential contingent combustion turbine to serve DEP-West beyond the planning horizon in the Company’s resource planning process. As a result, DEP submitted that it had complied with the Commission’s directive in the WCMP Order to work with customers in the DEP-Western Region to reduce peak load through demand-side management, energy efficiency or other measures.

On January 23, 2023, DEP submitted an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (“CPCN”) to construct a 9.5 megawatt (“MW”) solar photovoltaic generating facility at the Company’s existing Asheville Plant in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1311 (“Asheville Solar Facility”). The Company’s CPCN application noted that the Asheville Solar Facility was the final project required to satisfy DEP’s commitment and the Commission’s directive in the WCMP Order for DEP to construct at least 15 MW of solar generation and 5 MW of energy storage in the Asheville region.

On July 20, 2023, the Commission issued an *Order Granting Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity* in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1311 (“Asheville Solar CPCN Order”), in which the Commission granted DEP’s application for a CPCN for the Asheville Solar Facility. In the Asheville Solar CPCN Order, the Commission ordered, among other things:

That DEP shall track and report in the WCMP annual reports filed in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089, the efforts that DEP has undertaken to increase promotion of and access to new and existing DSM/EE programs in western North Carolina in a manner that allows the Commission to differentiate and compare the success of DSM/EE initiatives in DEP-West and DEP as a whole.

Asheville Solar CPCN Order at 18.

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In compliance with the Commission's directive in the Asheville Solar CPCN Order, DEP hereby provides the following discussion regarding its efforts to increase promotion of and access to new and existing DSM/EE programs in western North Carolina.

B. EE/DSM Programs in DEP-West

DEP has tracked program participation and savings to verify that its efforts to promote DSM and EE programs in DEP-West have yielded benefits to the Company's customers. The table below compares the energy and capacity savings achieved through DSM/EE programs in DEP-West to DEP as a whole. Generally, the DSM/EE programs have seen an increase in participation and kWh energy savings from 2017 to 2023. Total kWh impacts as a percent of the entire system attributable to DEP West participation increased from 11% to 15% from 2018 to 2023 which is over a 25% increase.

	DEP Western Region as % of System						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Participation	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
kWh	13%	11%	13%	14%	13%	14%	15%
SKW	10%	9%	11%	10%	10%	9%	11%
WKW	26%	27%	31%	29%	22%	17%	15%

Winter and Summer kW capacity in DEP-West as a percentage of system has fluctuated mainly due to saturation in the market. Specifically, Winter kW in 2022 and 2023 DEP Western as percent of DEP as a whole appears to have decreased because of the rollout of Bring Your Own Thermostat launched system-wide with a focus on winter kW across the whole system. Of note, DEP-West's EnergyWise Home winter kW in 2022 was 34% of the winter kW for the whole DEP system's EnergyWise Home winter kW and 28% in 2023.

Given the accomplishments described above, going forward DEP has transitioned its DSM/EE strategy to focusing on DEP as a whole. The basis for this decision is to ensure the Company can fully optimize its outreach, participation, and cost-effectiveness. Attached to this report as Appendix 1 are creative samples of DEP program marketing campaigns used in 2023. While the attached documents are not the full view of program offers and marketing in DEP, they provide an example of messages the Company has begun to deploy in the region. They are summarized below:

- Online Savings Store: Customers can shop a variety of discounted energy-efficiency products.

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- EnergyWise Home: Demand response program that provides bill credits to shift energy usage during high peak periods.
- Home Energy Assessment program: Offers a free assessment of a customer's home to find energy-efficiency/savings opportunities.
- Smart Saver / Find It Duke: Rebate and contractor referral program for making home (energy-efficient) improvements.

II. Technology: Solar, Storage, Microgrid Development

Below is a discussion of the projects that are being developed pursuant to DEP's commitments to invest in clean energy resources in Western North Carolina including through building solar and storage resources in the DEP-Western Region.

Project Update:

1. Mt. Sterling Microgrid (Docket No. E-2, Sub 1127) - COMPLETE
 - Haywood County
 - Approximate Capacity – 10 kW Solar PV and 95 kWh Battery Storage Facility
 - NCUC Order Granting CPCN – April 2017
 - Completion Date – May 2017
2. Asheville Rock Hill Battery - COMPLETE
 - Buncombe County
 - Sited at utility-owned substation
 - Approximate Capacity – 9 MW Battery Storage Facility
 - In-Service Date – August 2020
3. Hot Springs Microgrid (Docket No. E-2, Sub 1185) - COMPLETE
 - Madison County
 - Approximate Capacity – 2 MW Solar PV and 4 MW Battery Storage Facility
 - NCUC Order Granting CPCN – May 2019
 - In-Service Date – December 2021
4. Woodfin Solar (Docket No. E-2, Sub 1257)
 - Buncombe County
 - Approximate Capacity – 5 MW Solar PV
 - CPCN received May 2021
 - In-Service Date – April 2024

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5. Riverside Battery
 - Buncombe County
 - Sited at utility-owned substation
 - Approximate Capacity – 5 MW Battery Storage Facility
 - Anticipated In-Service Date – January 2025
6. Asheville Plant Solar Facility
 - Buncombe County
 - Sited at utility-owned CC plant
 - Approximate Capacity – 9.5MW Solar PV and 17 to 18 MW Battery Storage Facility
 - CPCN application granted by the NCUC on July 20, 2023 in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1311
 - Anticipated In-Service Date – March 2026
7. Craggy Battery
 - Buncombe County
 - Sited at utility-owned substation
 - Approximate Capacity – 31 MW Battery Storage Facility
 - Anticipated In-Service Date – March 2026




The current pipeline of solar and storage projects in the western region shown has allowed DEP to meet the Commission’s directive in the WCMP Order to deploy at least 15 MW of new solar generation and 5 MW of utility-scale storage in the Asheville region. DEP has presented narrative summaries and cost information on these projects CPCN proceedings before the Commission, the Company’s recent multi-year rate plan in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1300, and previous WCMP Annual Reports. As previously reported, the projects with future in-service dates are in various stages of the generator interconnection process.

III. Request for Order Finding That No Further Reporting is Required

As noted above, DEP has transitioned its efforts to promote DSM/EE programs in DEP-West to promotion of these programs in DEP as a whole in order to fully optimize the Company’s outreach, participation, and cost-effectiveness. Accordingly, future WCMP Annual Reports are not likely to include meaningful updates on the specific reporting items established by the WCMP Order and the Asheville Solar CPCN Order. Therefore, DEP respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order accepting the foregoing report as DEP’s final report under the WCMP Order and Asheville Solar CPCN Order and finding that no further reporting is required.

Smart Saver / Find It Duke Contractor Referral

[Shop Now](#)

 <p>SAVE ENERGY WITH SMART THERMOSTATS.</p>	 <p>SAVE ENERGY AND WATER WITH EFFICIENT SHOWERHEADS.</p>
 <p>USE A POWER STRIP TO STOP WASTING ENERGY ON IDLE DEVICES.</p>	 <p>CLEAN INDOOR AIR WITH AN ENERGY- EFFICIENT PURIFIER.</p>

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Duke Energy
HONOLULU, 150 N. Shown Street
Honolulu, HI 96801

PROGRAM FOR
CUSTOMERS WHO
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HOW IT HELPS

- Less Electric Load on the Grid**
Over 230,000 customers in the Carolinas are helping reduce electric load a few key days each year.
- Good for the Environment**
Helps preserve natural resources and delays the need for new power plants and transmission lines.
- Smaller Energy Savings**
Helps keep energy costs low for participants and other customers across the region.

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Enroll your AC and heat strips at duke-energy.com/ENW50 or by entering the QR code.

QUESTION?! Call us at 888-683.5022
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ENROLL & GET \$75

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You can receive \$75 for successfully enrolling your smart thermostat in our *Smart thermostat* program. By enrolling, you agree to let us raise smart temperature changes to your thermostat during our smart demand periods. Participants in this, save and help us reduce the load on the electric grid. Save \$ your thermostat qualifies and enroll today!


[Get Reward](#)

How It Works




Enroll Today

Enroll with a qualifying internet-connected smart thermostat. This must use electricity to heat and cool your home to qualify.




Get \$75

After successfully enrolling, you'll get a \$75 e-gift card. Plus, you get a \$25 e-gift card each year you stay in the program.




Make a Difference

When energy demand is high, a signal is sent to your smart thermostat that temporarily adjusts the temperature to help reduce energy.



Not sure what your heating bill will look like this winter?

Our Energy Pro can help.

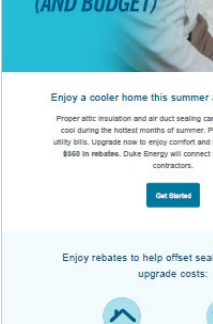
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Schedule a **FREE** energy assessment* to help find out if sealing leaks, weatherstripping or ductwork repair can help you save energy and money this winter.

Call 855.739.9114 or visit duke-energy.com/HelpMeSave.

*Assessment available only to eligible homeowners. Additional terms and conditions apply.




INSULATE YOUR HOME (AND BUDGET)

Enjoy a cooler home this summer and earn rebates.


Proper attic insulation and air duct sealing can help keep your home cool during the hottest months of summer. Plus, it may help lower utility bills. Upgrade now to enjoy comfort and savings and earn up to \$360 in rebates. Duke Energy will connect you to qualified local contractors.

[Get Started](#)


Enjoy rebates to help offset seal and insulation upgrade costs:



Get \$260 for air sealing and insulating your attic.



Get \$350 for tankless water heater replacement.



Get Connected with a Pro

A TANKFUL OF SAVINGS

Earn a \$350 rebate from Duke Energy

Upgrade your water heater. Downgrade your energy bill.

Your water heater is likely the second-largest energy user in your home. By upgrading to an energy-efficient heat pump (hybrid) water heater, you can save \$200/year or more on your utility bill. Combine that with a generous \$350 rebate and watch the savings flow.

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*Your upgrade may also qualify for a federal tax rebate. [Get details.](#)

Duke Energy rebate only applies to heat pump hybrid water heaters. Standard electric, gas, water or tankless models do not qualify.

Trust our network of qualified, insured and electricians.

Finding a skilled electrician is hard – you never know who to call. But Duke Energy's Find It Duke referral service does the work for you so you know you're getting top quality.

Let us connect you to up to 10 qualified, insured local contractors who will do the job right the first time.


Services include general repairs, EV charging installation, smart home lighting installation and backup generator installation.

FREE REFERRAL.


Find it to electrician referrals. Find it Duke can help you find a qualified contractor for these other home projects:

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- Sewer
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Be a savvy homeowner. Upgrade now.



Get 2-3x the efficiency of a conventional water heater*



Cut water heating costs by up to 50%*



Save up to \$3,500 over the product's lifetime*

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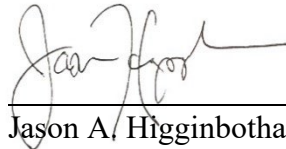
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of Duke Energy Progress, LLC's Annual Report on Community Engagement and Request for Order Accepting Final Report and Finding That No Further Reporting is Required, in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089, has been served by electronic mail, hand delivery, or by depositing a copy in the United States Mail, 1st Class Postage Prepaid, properly addressed to parties of record.

This the 28th day of March, 2024.



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