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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. M-100, SUB 163

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Investigation Regarding the Ability of)	ORDER MAKING FINDINGS AND
North Carolina's Electricity, Natural Gas,)	DIRECTING ACTIONS RELATED TO
and Water/Wastewater Systems to Operate)	IMPACT OF WINTER STORM ELLIOTT
Reliably During Extreme Cold Weather)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On January 3, 2023, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP) and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC, collectively, Duke) appeared before the Commission to present information on the load shed event that occurred on the DEC and DEP systems on December 24, 2022, due to Winter Storm Elliott.¹

Subsequent to that presentation, the Public Staff conducted an investigation into the circumstances underlying the event and has engaged DEP and DEC in several rounds of discovery.

On August 7, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Technical Conference. On September 26, 2023, the Commission held that technical conference for DEC and DEP to update the Commission with additional data and information since its January presentation and for the Public Staff to present the results of its investigation along with any recommendations resulting from that investigation (Technical Conference).

The purpose of this Order is to present the results of the Commission's assessment of the impact of Winter Storm Elliott on the electric system in North Carolina. Winter Storm Elliott is not the first extreme winter weather event that has impacted North Carolina's electric system, and it certainly will not be the last. As they have done in the past, DEC and DEP must review and revise operations protocols to incorporate lessons learned from each

¹ This docket was initiated on January 26, 2022, when the Commission issued its Order Opening Investigation, Scheduling Technical Conferences, Requiring Responses, and Allowing Comments and Reply Comments to examine reliability and integrity of the jurisdictional utility systems in North Carolina during extreme weather events, in light of the Winter Storm Uri-related outages experienced in Texas in February of 2021. On November 16, 2021, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued the February 2021 Cold Weather Outages in Texas and the South Central United States: FERC, NERC, and Regional Entity Staff Report. The Commission initiated this docket following the issuance of the federal report and on April 19, 2022, held a technical conference focused on the extreme weather preparedness of natural gas and electric utilities in North Carolina.

The Commission's assessment of the impact of Winter Storm Elliott occurs in this docket as it is a continuation of the Commission's review of the ability of the jurisdictional utility systems to operate reliably during extreme cold weather.