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From: Amanda Van Staalduinen <amanda_vs@hotmail.com>
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To: Statements
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Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

To Chief Clerk:

As a Beaufort county citizen I would like to challenge the Utilities Commission not to simply rubber stamp Wilkinson Solar LLC's request for a 74 MW solar installation in Terra Ceia, NC. This solar facility will be interconnected to the grid operated by Virginia Electric and Power Company ("VEPCO") d/b/a Dominion North Carolina Power. According to Dominion Energy's website the 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line provides critical electric service to the counties of Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Pitt and Washington, as well as the Town of Belhaven and is the only source of power for the area. The nearly 44-mile transmission line begins at our Everetts Substation in Martin County and ultimately terminates at the Pantego Substation in Beaufort County. It serves approximately 11,000 customers, which include a majority of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation (TEMC) and Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation (EMEMC) members. Adding intermittent solar power to this critical line puts 11,000 North Carolina homes and businesses at higher risk of power outages. We have no guarantee that Wilkinson Solar will add the proposed battery storage facility or that it will alleviate the problem.

In its 2017 IRP, Dominion assessed the cost per kW to add 7,000 MW nameplate of solar energy generation ideally located in Virginia closer to its load centers and determined the average cost to its transmission system to be \$171.80/kW. Thus, one could expect the cost to Dominion to connect Wilkinson Solar to exceed \$13 million.

Additionally, the PJM interconnection study reported that Wilkinson Solar would need to enter into an Affected System Facilities Study agreement with Duke/Progress Energy (DEP) to determine how to mitigate Battleboro-Rocky Mount 115kV overload. PJM estimated the upgrade will likely be a complete reconductor, probably replacing structures and costing \$15 million. Will North Carolina ratepayers be forced to fund this upgrade?

How can it be a public convenience to add millions of dollars to transmission costs to ratepayers and put 11,000 North Carolina homes and business at higher risk of a power outage to provide electricity for another state?

Sincerely,
Amanda V. Barnes