

The Law Office of Kurt J. Olson

P.O. Box 10031
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27605
Tel: 919.916.7221
kurt.j.olson@gmail.com

April 19, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Shonta Dunston
Chief Clerk
Office of the Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4325

Re: Docket E-100, Sub 161

Dear Ms. Dunston:

Enclosed please find Mission:data Coalition's *Sur-Reply Comments in Response to Order Requiring Filing of Supplemental Comments*, to be filed in the above referenced docket. By copy of this letter, all parties of record are being served.

Please note, the attachments referenced in the attached comment letter apparently are not formatted correctly. We will make the necessary changes, and file them no later than Monday, April 22, 2024. Everyone who has been served, however, has the complete filing with the attachments.

_____/s/_____
Kurt J. Olson, Esq.
Counsel for
Mission:data Coalition

cc: Counsel of Record

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Apr 19 2024

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 161
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)	
)	
Commission Rules Related)	
To Customer Billing Data)	SUPPLEMENTAL REPLY COMMENTS
)	
)	
)	
)	

Pursuant to the North Carolina Utilities Commission’s (“Commission”) February 19th, 2024 Order permitting sur-reply comments in this docket, Mission:data Coalition (“Mission:data”) hereby files this sur-reply comment to the issues and matters under consideration. For the reasons set forth below and in prior comments, Mission:data respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed draft Rule 8-51 on data privacy and data access and order Dominion Energy North Carolina (“DENC”) to respond to questions about how it will utilize United States Department of Energy (“DOE”) funds its affiliate was recently awarded in order to benefit the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality’s administration of \$104.9 million in federal funds for energy efficiency in homes.

1. Federal Funding Awards Warrant Further Examination in This Proceeding

Since Supplemental Reply Comments were filed December 9, 2022, DENC’s affiliate, Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion Energy Virginia”), was awarded \$33.65 million from DOE under its Smart Grid Grants program.¹ The grant contains the following requirements, according to DOE’s Funding Opportunity Announcement, attached hereto as Attachment 1:

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/grid-resilience-and-innovation-partnerships-grip-program-projects>

DOE will require that projects support data standards (e.g., Green Button Connect), interoperability, and nondiscriminatory data access on a real-time basis.²

Given this good news for North Carolina ratepayers and the award's potential synergies with the Inflation Reduction Act's \$104.9 million allocation to North Carolina for whole-home energy efficiency, mentioned by Mission:energy in Supplemental Reply Comments, the record in this docket will be incomplete without further information from DENC. DENC and Dominion Energy Virginia share many back-office information technology systems, and it is reasonable for the Commission to ask DENC the following questions:

1. When does Dominion Energy Virginia anticipate Green Button Connect being available?
2. What data types will be available – for example, kilowatt-hour usage data, therms of natural gas usage, billing information, account information, etc.?
3. How will Green Button Connect provide “actual” vs. “estimated” status of meter readings in order to satisfy the requirements of Building Performance Institute standard 2400,³ referenced in the IRA?
4. What are the costs, cost-sharing methodology, and timeline associated with Dominion Energy Virginia making Green Button Connect available to DENC customers?
5. How is Dominion Energy Virginia planning to meet the needs of Virginia's state energy office with regard to administration of IRA funds, and what lessons should be learned by and applied to North Carolina?

² Attachment 1 hereto, page 25.

³ <https://www.bpi.org/sites/default/files/BPI-2400-S-2015%20%28The%20Delta%20Standard%29%202015-12-07.pdf>

Finally, Mission:data reiterates its position from Supplemental Reply Comments that the swift adoption of the Proposed Rule R8-51 provides a method for bringing more federal funds to North Carolina. On November 13, 2023, DOE announced another \$1.0 billion in available funds under its Smart Grid Grants, which also reference Green Button Connect.⁴ The pace with which new grant opportunities are available to North Carolina demands that the Commission act swiftly to approve Proposed Rule R8-51 and set the state's electric and gas utilities on a course to receiving federal funding, which covers 50% of the costs of Green Button Connect implementation. Mission:data respectfully requests that the Commission ask DENC to explain how it intends to seek and utilize the aforementioned federal funds so that the record in this proceeding can be updated with new information.

WHEREFORE, Mission:data respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously approve R8-51 and require DENC to answer the questions above concerning the utilization of federal funds, particularly with regard to Green Button Connect and IRA programs.

Respectfully submitted this the 19th day of April, 2024.

/s/ Kurt J. Olson
Kurt J. Olson, Esq.
Counsel for Mission:data Coalition
State Bar No. 22657
P.O. Box 10031
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 916-7221
kurt.j.olson@gmail.com

⁴ Attachment 2 hereto, page 8.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that all persons on the docket service list have been served true and accurate copies of the foregoing by first class mail deposited in the U.S. mail, postage pre-paid or by email transmission with the party's consent.

Respectfully submitted this the 19th day of April, 2024.

/s/ Kurt J. Olson
Kurt J. Olson, Esq.
Counsel for Mission:data Coalition
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