

1 PLACE: Via Videoconference
2 DATE: Wednesday, May 5, 2021
3 DOCKET NO.: E-100, Sub 165
4 TIME: 6:00 P.M. TO 8:38 P.M.
5 BEFORE: Commissioner Daniel G. Clodfelter, Presiding
6 Chair Charlotte A. Mitchell
7 Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland
8 Commissioner Lyons Gray
9 Commissioner Kimberly W. Duffley
10 Commissioner Jeffrey A. Hughes
11 Commissioner Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.
12
13

14 IN THE MATTER OF:
15 Generic Electric - 2020 Biennial
16 Integrated Resource Plan Reports and
17 Related 2020 REPS Compliance Plans
18
19

20 Volume 3
21
22
23
24

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Madam Court Reporter,
3 if you will open the record, please, and let us all come
4 to order.

5 I am Commissioner Dan Clodfelter, and I will be
6 presiding at this public hearing tonight. Joining me --
7 and if you'll raise your hand so folks who are watching
8 on YouTube can see you on the screen. Joining me tonight
9 are Commission Chair Charlotte Mitchell, Commissioners
10 ToNola Brown-Bland, Lyons Gray, Kim Duffley, Jeff Hughes,
11 and Floyd McKissick, Jr.

12 The Commission will now call for hearing Docket
13 Number E-100, Sub 165, which is In the Matter of the 2020
14 Biennial Integrated Resource Plan Reports and the Related
15 2020 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Compliance Plans
16 for Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, and
17 Virginia Electric and Power Company doing business as
18 Dominion Energy North Carolina.

19 Before we proceed further and as required by
20 the State Government Ethics Act, I remind the members of
21 the Commission that it is our duty to avoid conflicts of
22 interest, and inquire at this time as to whether any
23 Commissioner has a known conflict of interest or
24 appearance of such conflict with respect to the

1 proceedings tonight?

2 (No response.)

3 Madam Court Reporter, please let the record
4 reflect that no one identified any such conflicts.

5 North Carolina General Statute Section 62-
6 110.1(c) requires this Commission to develop, publicize,
7 and keep current an analysis of the long-range need for
8 electricity in this state. In order for the Commission
9 to meet this requirement, we conduct an annual
10 investigation into the Integrated Resource Plans prepared
11 by each of the principal electric utilities under the
12 Commission's jurisdiction.

13 In addition to that review, Commission Rule R8-
14 67(b) requires electric public utilities to file a plan
15 for a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard called a REPS
16 Compliance Plan as part of their IRP reports. Integrated
17 Resource Planning, sometimes referred to for shorthand as
18 IRP, is intended to identify those electric resource
19 options that can be obtained at the lowest cost to
20 ratepayers consistent with safe, adequate, and reliable
21 electric service.

22 The Utilities' Integrated Resource Plans must
23 take into account and consider conservation, efficiency,
24 load management, as well as supply-side alternatives in

1 the selection of their resource portfolio.

2 The Commission does not approve or disapprove
3 the Utilities' Integrated Resource Plan. Instead, it
4 takes them into consideration in its own long-range plan
5 for electricity service in North Carolina and also in its
6 determination of applications for Certificates of Public
7 Convenience and Necessity to construct new electric
8 generating facilities and in other proceedings where
9 approval of utility programs or capital investments is
10 required by the General Statutes.

11 On May the 1st, 2020, Dominion Energy North
12 Carolina filed its 2020 IRP and its 2020 REPS Compliance
13 Plan.

14 On September 1st, 2020, Duke Energy Progress
15 and Duke Energy Carolinas filed their 2020 IRPs and 2020
16 REPS Compliance Plans.

17 The Public Staff's participation as a party in
18 this proceeding is recognized pursuant to General Statute
19 62-15(d). And, in addition, the participation of the
20 North Carolina Attorney General in this proceeding is
21 recognized pursuant to his Notice of Intervention filed
22 under General Statute 62-20.

23 The following parties have petitioned to
24 intervene and have been granted right to intervene as

1 formal parties by Commission Order. They are the North
2 Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, Volt Solar,
3 Inc., the Carolinas Clean Energy Business Alliance, NC
4 WARN, Inc., The Center for Biological Diversity, the
5 Carolina Industrial Group For Fair Utility Rates, the
6 Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc., the Tech
7 Customers, Broad River Energy, LLC, the City of
8 Asheville, Buncombe County, the City of Charlotte, the
9 Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council,
10 Electricities of North Carolina, Inc., the North Carolina
11 Eastern Municipal Power Agency, and the North Carolina
12 Municipal Power Agency Number 1.

13 On February 2nd of this year, the Commission
14 issued an Order scheduling a public hearing to be
15 conducted by Webex on March 16, 2021, for the purpose of
16 taking non-expert public witness testimony with respect
17 to the IRPs and the REPS Compliance Plans. The Order
18 stated that members of the public desiring to testify
19 must register in advance of the hearing, no later than
20 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021, by contacting the
21 Public Staff. The Commission's Order also required the
22 three Utilities to publish notice of this hearing in the
23 newspapers having general coverage in their respective
24 North Carolina service areas.

1 The Public Staff received more than 200
2 requests to testify at the originally scheduled hearing.
3 The Commission was very pleased to have this level of
4 interest, but determined that accommodating such a large
5 number of witnesses via remote technology on a single
6 evening presented logistical and technical challenges
7 that could not be overcome, and therefore the Commission
8 issued an Order on March 12, 2021, stating in part that
9 persons who had registered to testify at the March 16
10 hearing would instead be heard on a series of sessions
11 over several dates.

12 On March 26 the Commission issued an Order
13 establishing six dates in April and May for the purpose
14 of hearing non-expert public witness testimony from
15 persons who had registered with the Public Staff, and the
16 Commission directed the Public Staff to evenly schedule
17 the witnesses across the six evenings and to notify each
18 person of the date he or she is to testify. And so that
19 brings us to tonight, which is the third in the series of
20 hearings, and to the process we will follow this evening
21 to receive public witness testimony.

22 Over the past 12 months the Commission has
23 conducted several public hearings using remote video
24 technology, and we have learned that such hearings can

1 take longer and can sometimes be more complicated than
2 the hearings that are conducted in person in the hearing
3 room in Raleigh. And so in the interest of being able to
4 hear from everyone who scheduled to testify this evening,
5 I urge you to respect and abide by the following
6 procedures.

7 First, the Public Staff has grouped the
8 witnesses and has scheduled each group of witnesses for a
9 specific date. The group scheduled for tonight's date
10 are the only witnesses the Commission will receive
11 testimony from this evening. Once all the registered
12 witnesses have testified, the hearing will recess and the
13 next session will be held next week, May the 12th, at
14 6:00 p.m.

15 Second, public witnesses, as they call in, as
16 you dial in, will be on a telephone line, but they will
17 not displayed on the video screen available on YouTube.
18 However, anyone who is participating in or observing
19 tonight's hearing can watch the Commission and the
20 representatives of the Companies and other parties via
21 YouTube. The link to the YouTube video is available on
22 the Commission's website at www.ncuc.net.

23 Third, the Public Staff will call this
24 evening's witnesses in the order in which they are

1 registered to speak. When your name is called, at that
2 point our meeting technician will unmute your telephone
3 line. When you hear two beeps on your telephone line,
4 that means your line is unmuted and you are then live in
5 the meeting. I will next ask you to take an oath of
6 affirmation. We will not be asking witnesses to swear on
7 the Bible because obviously we can't physically do that
8 tonight, so you will be asked to take an oath of
9 affirmation.

10 After you take the oath, the Public Staff
11 attorneys will ask you a few introductory questions, and
12 if you want to save some time, you will be asked to state
13 your name, to provide your address, and to tell us which
14 company provides your electricity service. And if you
15 want to go ahead and do that as soon as you've taken the
16 oath, that can speed us up. If not, the Public Staff
17 attorney will solicit that information from you.

18 Immediately after those questions, you may
19 proceed to make your statement. You will have five
20 minutes to present your testimony. Due to the number of
21 witnesses that we have and the requirements of tonight's
22 technology, I don't have latitude, really, to allow you
23 to go beyond your allowed time. Commissioner Brown-Bland
24 will be keeping time for us tonight, and she's got a very

1 loud ringing phone which we can all hear that will let us
2 know when your five minutes are up.

3 To help you save your time, if you have
4 something to say that you believe has already been said
5 by an earlier speaker, you may want to simply refer to
6 that testimony and say you support the earlier speaker,
7 and that allows you to use your five minutes to make
8 different points or new points that haven't been said.
9 If you have more information that you wish the Commission
10 to consider than you're able to provide in the allotted
11 five minutes, please remember that you may file a
12 supplemental written statement with the clerk. That
13 statement will become part of the record in these
14 proceedings.

15 You will be speaking to the Commissioners who
16 you'll be able to see on the YouTube link. After you've
17 completed your statement, the Commissioners and the
18 attorneys for the parties will have an opportunity to ask
19 you questions, so please don't hang up your telephone
20 line until I have let you know whether or not any
21 Commissioner or party has a question they want to ask
22 you.

23 When you've completed your statement and
24 responded to any questions asked of you, your phone line

1 will be put on mute again, and you are free to disconnect
2 your line if you wish to do so. When you hear a single
3 beep on your line, that means you have been muted. I
4 encourage you to continue to watch and follow us on
5 YouTube after you've completed your statement and, again,
6 the link to -- the YouTube link is available on the
7 Commission's website.

8 Finally, let me touch on a couple of points
9 that will help us avoid problems with the technology this
10 evening. If you are using a cell phone, a portable
11 phone, or a smart phone as your telephone device, please
12 be sure your device is fully charged or that you can keep
13 it charged up during the course of the evening. The
14 hearing could last several hours, and you don't want to
15 have your phone go dead if you are one of the later
16 speakers on tonight's speakers list.

17 If you are watching us on YouTube and you're
18 also connected to us by your telephone, please remember
19 to keep you computer audio on mute to avoid feedback on
20 your telephone line. If you're using your computer audio
21 to dial in for the hearing and speak to us, please keep
22 you computer audio on mute, except when you've been
23 called on and recognized and are actually speaking.

24 And last of all, be sure the volume level on

1 the device that you are using is set high enough so that
2 you can be heard.

3 To those of you who are watching us on YouTube
4 who may be speaking to us in one of the subsequent
5 hearings, let me advise you that the procedures I just
6 went through in just last couple minutes have now been
7 posted on the Commission website. So, again, if you will
8 go to the website, www.ncuc.net, there will be a tab for
9 hearings, and if you click on that tab, you can get
10 access to the procedures that we follow for these remote
11 public hearings. We didn't have that posted before this
12 session, but if you're speaking to us in some of the
13 coming sessions, you can find out these protocols and get
14 yourself prepared to speak to us from the Commission's
15 website.

16 Okay. With those preliminaries out of the way,
17 I will call upon counsel for the parties to announce
18 their appearances for the record, and I'll begin with the
19 Companies.

20 MR. KAYLOR: Good evening, members of the
21 Commission. Robert Kaylor appearing on behalf of Duke
22 Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
24 Kaylor. Good evening.

1 MS. KELLS: Good evening, Commissioner
2 Clodfelter, Commissioners. This is Andrea Kells with the
3 law firm of McGuireWoods, appearing on behalf of Dominion
4 Energy North Carolina.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good evening, Ms.
6 Kells. Thank you. Ms. Townsend?

7 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes. Teresa Townsend with the
8 Attorney General's Office, representing the Using and
9 Consuming Public and also the State and Its Citizens in
10 this Matter of Public Interest.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I do not see on my
12 screen any other Intervenor parties. Speak now or
13 forever hold your peace. If so, we'll go to the Public
14 Staff and recognize the Public Staff.

15 MS. EDMONDSON: Lucy Edmondson with the Public
16 Staff on behalf of the Using and Consuming Public. Also
17 with me is Robert Josey.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good evening to both
19 of you. Again, I'll call out, are there any Intervenors'
20 counsel who are on the phone that I don't see on my
21 screen who want to make an appearance?

22 (No response.)

23 If not, let me ask counsel, are there any
24 preliminary matters that you want us to address before we

1 begin hearing from the witnesses?

2 MR. KAYLOR: Not from Duke Energy, Chair.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
4 Edmondson, we'll start and let you call your first
5 witness, please.

6 MS. EDMONDSON: Our first witness is Joel
7 Porter.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
9 Porter, can you hear me?

10 MR. PORTER: I can, yes. Can you hear me?

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can do so fine.
12 Let's get you sworn in.

13 JOEL PORTER; Having first been duly affirmed,
14 Testified as follows:

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Okay.

16 THE WITNESS: My name is Joel, J-O-E-L, Porter,
17 P-O-R-T-E-R, for the record. My address is 1015 Catch
18 Fly Lane, that's Catch Fly Lane, Durham, North Carolina,
19 27713, and Duke Energy Progress, I believe, is my
20 utility.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. You may
22 proceed with your statement.

23 STATEMENT BY MR. PORTER:

24 Great. I'm getting a little feedback, so I

1 apologize in advance.

2 Ten years ago Congress failed to act and
3 implement comprehensive policies that would have put
4 adequate measures in place to mitigate greenhouse gases.
5 In the absence of real federal leadership and
6 comprehensive policy, emissions have continued to
7 contribute to our changing climate and exacerbate
8 warmings effects.

9 Now, power companies in the West like PG&E
10 cannot obtain insurance to ground wires because of the
11 increased risk that a spark will ignite dry ground cover
12 and cause a catastrophic fire. Louisiana is currently
13 experiencing rolling blackouts due to increased stress
14 from hotter days. Texas saw nearly a weeklong blackout
15 because of the snowstorm. And here in North Carolina
16 we're dealing with our own climate issues, from more
17 intense storms leading to flooding, to landslides in the
18 West.

19 The list of climate-related costs that our
20 communities are already experiencing as a result of the
21 pollution from fossil fuel generation goes on and on and
22 on. There is an inherent price on carbon, and that price
23 is currently inadequate to account for the totality of
24 risks that climate change poses both now and into the

1 future. Bottom line, the Integrated Resource Plan that
2 Duke Energy submitted to this Commission leaves
3 ratepayers on the hook for the costs they shouldn't bear.

4 The IRP will add significant amounts of gas
5 generation to the grid. I remember back in 2007, utility
6 companies told Congress that natural gas would be the
7 bridge fuel to cleaner energy sources. It's now 2021,
8 and Duke Energy, Dominion, and other utilities are still
9 trying to claim that natural gas will be a bridge to
10 addressing climate challenge -- challenges. Excuse me.
11 That bridge is now 15 years long, making it the longest
12 metaphorical bridge excuse ever constructed. And even
13 though we now have affordable means of achieving the
14 clean energy future we need, utilities keep trying to
15 build that bridge a little longer.

16 Intervenors in this rate case have identified
17 flaws in the modeling used, additional cost, i.e., the
18 total societal cost of greenhouse gases that are
19 currently unaccounted for and issues with assumptions
20 ranging from fuel price estimates to energy demand.

21 In their yearly analysis of the levelized cost
22 of energy, the financial advisory and assets management
23 firm Lazard listed -- lists utility scale solar and wind
24 generation as cost competitive with conventional sources

1 of generation.

2 In 2016, the National Renewable Energy
3 Laboratory issued a report titled Rooftop Solar
4 Photovoltaic Technical Potential in the United States: A
5 Detailed Assessment. This report modeled how much energy
6 potential exists in the United States if we install solar
7 on every capable rooftop in the nation. In North
8 Carolina, the modeling found that we could generate 35 GW
9 of our state's electricity demand from solar if we
10 maximize total generation capacity.

11 The 8.6 GW Duke's IRP proposes to have
12 installed by 2030 leaves 26.4 GW of solar potential on
13 the table. Duke's attention to its responsibilities to
14 maintain grid resiliency and reliability is appropriate.
15 However, we believe there are cleaner energy solutions
16 that do maintain those attributes in a least-cost way
17 that were not presented in the IRP, especially in light
18 of the bipartisan legislation that Congress passed late
19 last year that addressed renewable energy tax extenders.

20 We believe the Commission should require Duke
21 Energy to revise their assumptions based on goals set out
22 under Governor Cooper's Executive Order 80, and submit an
23 IRP that reduces reliance on legacy fossil fuel
24 generation.

1 next?

2 MS. EDMONDSON: The second witness is Laurie
3 O'Loughlin.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. O'Loughlin, can
5 you hear me?

6 MS. EDMONDSON: (Audio feedback.)

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Your audio is a
8 little garbled. Try again.

9 MS. EDMONDSON: The second witness is Laurie
10 O'Loughlin.

11 MS. O'LOUGHLIN: Yes, I can.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Your audio is a
13 little garbled. Try again. We're getting some
14 interference on the line, so let's try again. Ms.
15 O'Loughlin --

16 MS. O'LOUGHLIN: Can you hear me now?

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you much
18 better now. Thank you.

19 MS. O'LOUGHLIN: Okay. All right.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let's get you sworn,
21 please.

22 MS. O'LOUGHLIN: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let's get you sworn,
24 please.

1 LAURIE O'LOUGHLIN; Having first been duly affirmed,
2 Testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

4 THE WITNESS: My name is Laurie O'Loughlin. My
5 address is 4 Castlewood Lane, Pinehurst, North Carolina.
6 I believe it's Duke Progress via Arcadia Power, a hundred
7 percent wind.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You may proceed with
9 your statement.

10 STATEMENT BY MS. O'LOUGHLIN:

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in
12 opposition to the Duke Energy IRPs. I am the Co-founder,
13 Director of the Climate Crisis Working Group of Moore
14 County. We've spent the last two years since we formed
15 learning about the growing climate crisis, strategizing
16 what we can do, and taking actions when we can. We are
17 mostly senior members of the community with children and
18 grandchildren for whom we have deep and abiding love and
19 deep and abiding concern about the kind of climate world
20 we are leaving for them. Many of us are also trained and
21 certified in climate reality leadership.

22 I have grandchildren ages five and one. I'm
23 constantly working to ensure that I leave them a better
24 world than what they are facing now. I've read the

1 doomsday statements. I've also read many statements of
2 hope. I take hope from the Paris Agreement, from the
3 Pope's Encyclical, and from Governor Cooper's and
4 President Biden's climate action plans.

5 I was hoping to be encouraged by the Duke IRPs,
6 but I am disappointed to see there is far too much
7 business as usual and far too little significant change
8 -- change-making action. Most concerning is the plan to
9 increase the number of new gas power plants. This is
10 completely contrary to the NC Clean Energy Plan's goal of
11 70 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2035. I fail
12 to see how building more gas power plants makes any sense
13 neither in carbon emissions reductions nor in cost. That
14 sounds like another bridge to nowhere.

15 The IRP's cost analysis comparing gas to
16 renewables contains misleading data and doesn't take into
17 consideration the societal cost of all fossil fuels, such
18 as public health losses from pollution and land
19 contamination, and economic losses from heat, drought,
20 and hurricanes which are expected to increase due to
21 advancing global warming. And, of course, the most
22 underserved communities of poverty and color bear the
23 brunt of all those losses and can least afford the
24 increases in cost. Why should they? It's time for Duke

1 to lose the misinformation and tell the truth.

2 What I want to see from Duke Energy, as my
3 power supplier for the future, is a total commitment to
4 making sure that my grandchildren's lives will be secure
5 from the ravages of climate change that we currently
6 anticipate. I want a commitment to close plants -- close
7 coal plants as soon as possible, and no new fossil fuel
8 plants, not even gas; increase investment in renewable
9 energy sources, including solar, rooftop, municipal, and
10 community, offshore and onshore winds; increase
11 investment in energy storage technology, ensure that the
12 most underserved and impoverished communities in our
13 state not bear the brunt of the cost of conversion to
14 renewables; promote the need for energy efficiency and
15 reduced usage to reduce power needs, promote the
16 development of more good-paying clean energy jobs, and
17 use your influence over policymakers to support carbon-
18 free energy production.

19 My grandchildren will be nearing adulthood in
20 2035. What kind of world is Duke Energy planning to
21 leave them? Will they be looking forward to the climate
22 crisis being controlled with increasingly efficient
23 sources of power and methods of usage and storage? Will
24 they be breathing clean air? Will the climate be

1 livable? Will my grandchildren be looking forward to
2 bringing their own children into a safe, energy
3 efficient, carbon-free world, or will it be too late, as
4 they are forced to deal with continued reliance on
5 outdated fossil fuel power plants, ever worsening climate
6 events, ever increasing extreme heat, and the wish that
7 their parents and grandparents had done more?

8 Duke has an opportunity to show real leadership
9 in helping to solve the energy and climate crisis by
10 committing to a culture of can-do about producing carbon-
11 free energy rather than the can't-do unless we keep going
12 with fossil fuels for a little while longer attitude
13 revealed in the IRPs. There are so many great ways to be
14 the standout, the leader. North Carolina is already
15 second in the nation in solar. Let's build on that and
16 leave ancient fossil fuels behind.

17 I request that Duke Energy go back to the
18 drawing board and utilize the recommendations put forth
19 by organizations like the Intervenors, Charlotte-
20 Mecklenburg Climate -- Climate Report Review Group, and
21 NC WARN and -- as well as the many corporations who have
22 expressed their concerns about the IRPs as they stand.
23 Duke can do better to show their commitment to reduction
24 of greenhouse gases which they state in their report. My

1 children, grandchildren, and I are relying on Duke to get
2 this right. The stakes are too high for the status quo.
3 We need real change. Thank you for your consideration.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Are there
5 any questions from any of the parties or from the
6 Commissioners for Ms. O'Loughlin?

7 (No response.)

8 I don't see any, so we thank you for coming and
9 participating in the hearing tonight.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

13 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The third witness is Lois
14 Nilsen.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
16 Nilsen, can you --

17 MS. NILSEN: Hello.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Nilsen, are you
19 there?

20 MS. NILSEN: Yes, I am.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let's swear
22 you in, please.

23 LOIS NILSEN; Having first been duly affirmed,
24 Testified as follows:

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Let's give us
2 your name, your address, and your electricity provider,
3 and then proceed with your statement.

4 THE WITNESS: My name is Lois Nilsen. I'm at
5 8405 Camelia Drive in Raleigh. My electric provider is
6 Duke Energy Progress.

7 STATEMENT BY MS. NILSEN:

8 And I thank you for this opportunity to speak
9 at this important hearing. As a retired State employee
10 in Raleigh, I took pride in my public service, and I
11 commend all the Commission members for your significant
12 service to our state.

13 The IRPs come at a crossroads in the history of
14 our state, our nation, and our world. They fall far
15 short. We need to seize this day and not squander it.
16 To achieve 70 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by
17 2030, as called for in the State's Clean Energy Plan, the
18 next decade needs more focused, more creative, and more
19 strategic action than in any of the scenarios that were
20 provided. Therefore, I request that the Commission ask
21 Duke Energy to compile a new scenario, a scenario that
22 makes North Carolina a leaner -- a leader and not a
23 lagger, a state that is responsible to its children and
24 grandchildren, for our nation and the wider world.

1 We need a plan that does not replace coal
2 plants with methane gas plants, a much more harmful
3 greenhouse gas than carbon. Further, we need -- only one
4 of the scenarios calculated any price added to carbon,
5 and that price does not come close to capturing the
6 actual cost.

7 What should a scenario maximizing renewables
8 look like? Scientists from Stanford University have done
9 that homework for us. They outline the most sensible mix
10 of energy options for each state. For North Carolina
11 they recommend a mix of primarily offshore wind, solar
12 plants, and rooftop solar. You can see their analysis at
13 thesolutionsproject.org. These scientists found that
14 going all renewable would produce dollar savings for the
15 health of our citizens of \$20 billion. That's \$20
16 billion a year of better health for North Carolinians.
17 That's not just dollars. That's quality of life.

18 Health costs and the human misery they
19 represent are not the only thing ignored in the IRPs.
20 Societal costs of extreme weather are not factored into
21 these plans. Hurricane Florence alone cost 24.7 billion
22 in damages and 53 deaths. Last year in the United States
23 federal data showed there were 22 disasters that cost a
24 billion dollars or more. That's six more billion dollar

1 disasters than our country has ever had in a year,
2 including a record-breaking hurricane season. Two of
3 those disasters came home last year. Tornadoes in early
4 February in Western North Carolina and Hurricane Isaias
5 in August -- in early August. The human cost of those
6 disasters cannot be quantified, death, injuries, lost
7 wages, damaged homes, businesses, and the other
8 disruption of everyday lives.

9 Duke Energy states that their primary
10 objectives in the IRP are clean, reliable, and affordable
11 energy. We all know that clean means maximizing
12 renewables. Affordable must encompass the societal cost
13 and the cost to the earth, our only home. We all pay a
14 hefty price for the daily spewing of greenhouse gases.
15 With the cost of renewables plummeting, that fact must
16 also be accounted for.

17 As far as reliability, the most reliable thing
18 about continuing to burn coal and gas and actually adding
19 new gas plants is more severe and more frequent disasters
20 to our state, our country, and our world. We need a new
21 scenario maximizing solar and wind power together to get
22 us to the 70 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by
23 2030. We can make North Carolina a leader, as it has
24 been so often in the past, or we can be laggards.

1 KAY REIBOLD; Having first been duly affirmed,
2 Testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
4 proceed.

5 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. My name is Kay
6 Reibold, and I'm a resident of Raleigh. My address is
7 4108 Yates Mill Pond Road in Raleigh, 27606. I am a Duke
8 Energy Progress customer.

9 STATEMENT BY MS. REIBOLD:

10 I appreciate the opportunity to provide
11 testimony today regarding Duke Energy's IRP. I would
12 start by saying that I believe the Utilities Commission
13 should strongly reject Duke's current IRP. In my home I
14 have a little pillow that says "All things grow with
15 love." I would like to see our plants, the trees, the
16 soil, the air, the water, the life community of humans
17 and nonhumans all grow with love in the future, but I am
18 gravely concerned that Duke Energy's proposed IRP does
19 little to protect and promote the love we all have for
20 Mother Earth. The life community cannot thrive and grow
21 with love in Duke's plan.

22 Duke plans more fracked gas power plants than
23 any other US electricity provider. This is destructive.
24 It is life destroying. The Duke IRP plan needs to end

1 coal production in the state, stop the destructive
2 climate-destroying impacts of Duke's expanded methane gas
3 infrastructure, and put a much greater focus on renewable
4 energy. These are three areas that are of major concern
5 in Duke's proposal.

6 I care not only about the environment that
7 surrounds me and that would be negatively impacted by
8 Duke's plan, but I'm also concerned about the
9 environmental justice communities in the state that would
10 suffer under Duke's plan that gives little consideration
11 to low-income indigenous communities and communities of
12 color who are always disproportionately affected by dirty
13 energy. And I would say I support NC WARN's
14 recommendations.

15 I would like to emphasize these three main
16 points. First, Duke does not need to build any new
17 fossil gas plants or infrastructure. Renewable energy
18 and energy efficiency can meet reliability needs more
19 cost effectively while reducing bills, pollution, and
20 climate impacts.

21 Second, the combination of carbon dioxide and
22 super potent methane released as a result of increased
23 use of fossil gas will prevent Duke and North Carolina
24 from meeting their climate goals, and it will lock North

1 and South Carolinians into more fossil fuel energy for
2 decades.

3 And finally, many of these plants will be
4 economically obsolete in a few years as solar and storage
5 become cheaper than new gas plants. Duke's coal plants
6 are already uneconomic and costing ratepayers millions.
7 They need to be shut down now for the benefit of our
8 wallets, our health, and our climate.

9 Please, Commissioners, take action to stop Duke
10 Energy and prevent the terrible consequences from Duke's
11 addiction to fossil fuels. Thank you for this
12 opportunity to offer my statement.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
14 Reibold. Are there questions for Ms. Reibold from
15 Commissioners or parties?

16 (No response.)

17 If not, Ms. Reibold, thank you for joining us
18 this evening. We appreciate your comments.

19 MS. REIBOLD: Thank you so much.

20 (Witness excused.)

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

22 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The fifth witness did not
23 call in at the number provided, so we'll proceed to the
24 sixth witness who is Judy Mattox.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
2 Mattox, are you there?

3 MS. EDMONDSON: (Audio feedback.) The fifth
4 witness did not call in at the number provided, so we'll
5 proceed to the sixth witness who is Judy Mattox.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Mattox, can you
7 hear me?

8 (Audio feedback.)

9 MS. MATTOX: Yes, I am. Let me mute my
10 computer here. Yes, sir. Can you hear me?

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's much better.
12 Again, let me remind folks, if you're watching on a
13 computer and you're also calling on a phone, please keep
14 your computer on mute so we won't get feedback. So thank
15 you. Ms. Mattox, let's give you the oath.

16 JUDY MATTOX; Having first been duly affirmed,
17 Testified as follows:

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Let's try to
19 do it -- we've been very efficient so far, so let's give
20 us your name, your address, who your electricity provider
21 is, and then you may proceed with your statement.

22 THE WITNESS: Yes. Thank you. I'm Judy
23 Mattox, 15 Morning Star Drive, Leicester, North Carolina,
24 28748, and it's Duke Energy Progress.

1 STATEMENT BY MS. MATTOX:

2 First, I want to thank you all, the Commission,
3 for rescheduling to be able to hear all of us, so thank
4 you for your consideration for that.

5 I am urging the Commission to please require
6 Duke Energy to retire its coal-burning power plants, all
7 of them, by 2030, and replace them with clean energy. I
8 support Duke Energy's earliest practical retirement
9 scenario in its 2020 Integrated Resource Plans, where
10 Duke would retire all of its coal plants in North
11 Carolina by 2030. Retiring these plants would improve
12 the health and the lives of all North Carolinians,
13 especially people of color and low-income communities
14 disproportionately impacted by air and water pollution.

15 Pollution from coal causes serious health
16 effects and contributes to four of the five leading
17 causes of death in North Carolina, which are cancer,
18 stroke, heart disease, and upper respiratory disease.
19 People of color and low-income communities near coal
20 plants have been hit the hardest, and North Carolina
21 ranks fourth in the entire country in hospital admissions
22 for heart attacks and mortality from coal pollution.

23 Coal plants are the dirtiest and the most
24 expensive way to produce energy in North Carolina. Solar

1 and wind are already cheaper than coal in North Carolina,
2 and all of Duke's coal plants can be replaced with more
3 affordable clean energy, yet Duke Energy continues to
4 operate all six of its old polluting coal plants, wasting
5 billions of dollars and making customers foot the bill.

6 Duke's coal fleet operates at a net loss, and
7 as a result, customers pay billions extra on their bills,
8 and this hinders investments in solar and wind, energy
9 efficiency, battery storage, and other cleaner, cheaper
10 energy sources.

11 Cities and counties across all of North
12 Carolina have clean energy goals that depend on retiring
13 fossil fuel generation and need to accelerate clean
14 energy investments. I support an Order from the North
15 Carolina Utilities Commission that requires Duke to
16 retire all of its coal plants by 2030, and they should be
17 replaced with renewable energy and not gas.

18 And I thank you all for listening to me. Thank
19 you.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
21 Mattox, for coming to participate in the hearing tonight.
22 Let's see if there are any questions for you from
23 Commissioners or parties.

24 (No response.)

1 I don't see any, so, again, thank you, Ms.
2 Mattox, and enjoy the rest of your evening. We
3 appreciate your joining us.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you. I appreciate it.
5 Thank you.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

8 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The seventh witness is
9 Joe Adamsky.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. I'm going to
11 try. Is it Mr. Adamsky or Adamsky?

12 MR. ADAMSKY: Adamsky.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I got it. Okay.
14 Let's get you sworn in.

15 JOE ADAMSKY; Having first been duly affirmed,
16 Testified as follows:

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Okay. Let's
18 give us your name, your address, your energy provider,
19 and then you may proceed.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you. My name is Joe
21 Adamsky. I live at 1404 Goren Place, Raleigh, North
22 Carolina, 27603, and I'm a Duke Progress ratepayer.

23 STATEMENT BY MR. ADAMSKY:

24 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you

1 tonight. I'm here because of your urgent and personal
2 responsibility to protect and preserve our planet for
3 current and future generations.

4 The damage to our climate from leaks, natural
5 gas, and other emitted greenhouse gases is well
6 documented. You have a clear mandate from our only
7 planet and the peoples of the world to end all greenhouse
8 gas emissions as soon as possible, but you already know
9 this.

10 What I'm pressing for tonight is for the
11 Utilities Commission to challenge this IRP and require
12 the energy future that we need, which is 100 percent
13 clean and renewable energy and storage for all new
14 generation.

15 I'm sure that you've heard that polling shows
16 overwhelming support for clean, renewable energy. North
17 Carolina's statewide poll by Strategic Partner Solutions
18 found that 86.5 percent of North Carolinians would
19 support a lawmaker or candidate who supports policies
20 that encourage renewable energy options such as solar and
21 wind, while 63.8 percent of North Carolinians expressed
22 strong support for those views.

23 I'm sure you've heard about some local
24 communities passing clean energy resolutions. I'm also

1 sure you realize how difficult it is to introduce, agree
2 on, get through legal review, and pass these resolutions.
3 In addition, I'm sure you understand that the people of
4 North Carolina are depending on this Utility Commission
5 to deliver our clean energy future.

6 What you may not know is how much of North
7 Carolina lives in areas that have adopted the goal of
8 achieving 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2050
9 or sooner. I've searched for and brought you just the
10 resolutions that I could find, while there are likely
11 more. Every resolution I located is included in my
12 submitted material along with a summary and cited
13 sources.

14 Given the difficulty of passing a resolution,
15 you may think that 10 percent of North Carolinians are
16 under a clean energy resolution. You may even think it's
17 as high as 15 or maybe even 20. The following counties
18 of North Carolina have passed clean energy resolutions:
19 Buncombe, Chatham, Durham, Orange, Macon, Wake, and
20 Watauga. Also, the following cities and towns of North
21 Carolina have passed clean energy resolutions: Apex,
22 Asheville, Blowing Rock, Boone, Canton, Carrboro, Chapel
23 Hill, Charlotte, Clyde, Durham, Franklin, Hillsborough,
24 Pittsboro, Raleigh, Sylva, Waynesville, and Webster. All

1 together, just in the resolutions I located, 28 percent
2 of the population of North Carolina have clean energy
3 resolutions.

4 The mandates from our planet and the peoples of
5 the world, including those of North Carolina, is clear,
6 we have no time to spare and no time to lose. Let this
7 be the time when North Carolina says no more. Let this
8 be the time when North Carolina does the right thing and
9 requires that all new power generation rely on 100
10 percent clean and renewable power and storage. Let this
11 be the time when North Carolina phases out all power
12 generation that relies on fossil fuels as quickly as
13 possible. Let this be the time when the Commission
14 requires Duke Progress to provide the clean energy future
15 we need. I would like to thank you for your time.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
17 Adamsky. I understand you've made a written submission
18 with the information referred to; is that correct?

19 THE WITNESS: Correct.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Thank you for
21 that. Let's see if there are any questions for you this
22 evening from the parties or the Commissioners.

23 (No response.)

24 I don't see any, so thank you again for joining

1 us this evening at this hearing.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

5 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Witness eight is -- has
6 not called in, so we'll proceed to witness nine, Maria
7 Portone.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Is it Portone
9 or Portone?

10 MS. PORTONE: Portone is fine.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's what we'll
12 use, then.

13 MARIA PORTONE; Having first been duly affirmed,
14 Testified as follows:

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you very much.
16 Please give us your name, your address, your electricity
17 provider, and then proceed.

18 THE WITNESS: My name is Maria Portone. I live
19 at 921 Mayapple Way, Belmont, North Carolina, 28012, and
20 my energy provider is Duke Energy Carolinas.

21 STATEMENT BY MS. PORTONE:

22 When I was a junior in high school, I attended
23 the first Earth Day celebration. I truly believed that
24 once people heard these wonderful ideas, things would

1 change. Fast forward 50 years. That naïve, idealistic
2 high school girl has been replaced by a grumpy old woman
3 who has learned that the world runs on profit, not on
4 good ideas. We are still fighting the same battles.
5 Still.

6 I was optimistic when I got an email from Duke
7 Energy with the title Net Zero Carbon by 2050; Here's
8 How. Finally, I thought, the time is right. The urgency
9 of the climate crisis, the declining cost of renewable
10 energy technology, and the growing public awareness has
11 finally made Duke Energy change direction. Over the
12 years, however, I have learned to take corporate
13 pronouncements with a grain of salt. I decided to look
14 at Duke Energy's IRP to see exactly what their plans
15 were.

16 It took a while to read it. I found a lot of
17 words, but none of the leadership or bold ideas I was
18 hoping for. As I read, I grew sadder and then angrier.
19 It presented six possible plans, four of which do not
20 even meet the 70 percent emissions reduction by 2030 goal
21 set by the State of North Carolina. Why spend time and
22 money producing plans that do not meet the goals? Of the
23 two that do, one does it by adding natural gas plants and
24 the other by new nuclear. No plan presented looks at how

1 to accomplish these goals by adding renewables only. Did
2 Duke Energy even bother to try?

3 Duke Energy wants to stick with what they know
4 and continue to make money as they have in the past.
5 This is understandable, but it is not what we need. They
6 admit as much in the risk factors from 2020 Annual Report
7 Form 10-K for their shareholders. They fear loss of
8 their monopoly, increased energy efficiency that reduces
9 demand, loss of customers to private solar and battery
10 technology. Let me repeat, they fear energy efficiency.
11 They fear solar and battery technology. They worry about
12 lower demand, even though a clean energy future requires
13 electrifying nearly everything.

14 If they stick with their current course, they
15 have reason to worry. I'm an example of a customer they
16 might lose to solar. I don't really want to have to do
17 the research to learn the efficiency of various brands of
18 solar panels or wade through reviews to find the good
19 solar installer. I wish Duke Energy would offer me an
20 easier option to get to clean energy.

21 Duke Energy needs to imagine a clean energy
22 future and then reimagine their business model so they
23 can thrive in that environment. It is time to move
24 boldly into the future instead of continuing to resist

1 the change that must come.

2 Here is what we need from Duke: Stop burning
3 coal by 2030, not 2049; no new fossil fuel plants;
4 aggressively expand renewables, plus storage, doing our
5 part to help bring down the cost instead of waiting for
6 someone else to do it. I ask the North Carolina
7 Utilities Commission to send Duke Energy's IRP back to
8 the drawing board.

9 Thank you to the Commission for the work you do
10 and for the opportunity to speak. That's it.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
12 Portone. Are there any questions for Ms. Portone from
13 Commissioners or parties?

14 (No response.)

15 I don't see any, so Ms. Portone, thank you for
16 joining us this evening.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson, who is
19 next?

20 MS. EDMONDSON: Our next witness is Maryanne
21 Rackoff.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
23 Rackoff, can you hear me?

24 MS. RACKOFF: Yes. Hello.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's great. Let's
2 get you sworn in, then, please.

3 MS. RACKOFF: Yes.

4 MARYANNE RACKOFF; Having first been duly affirmed,
5 Testified as follows:

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
7 proceed.

8 THE WITNESS: All right. I live at 45 Treetop
9 Drive, Arden, North Carolina, 28704.

10 STATEMENT BY MS. RACKOFF:

11 We're just like an area in Buncombe County, but
12 anyway, I -- let me tell you a little about me. I'm
13 retired.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Rackoff, who is
15 -- Ms. Rackoff, who is your electricity provider?

16 THE WITNESS: I'll get to that.

17 CONTINUED STATEMENT BY MS. RACKOFF:

18 I'm a ratepayer to Duke Energy Progress. I'm
19 also a shareholder. I'm 100 percent opposed to Duke's
20 IRP, especially with respect to coal. As I recall, they
21 are proposing to rely on coal for 50 years. That is
22 unacceptable.

23 Buncombe County has this loaded bond issue
24 which will be paid off easily and will be paid for with

1 savings from green energy. Our county and our city
2 Asheville both have passed resolutions to go carbon
3 neutral by 2030. Duke really needs to show more
4 leadership. They have the technology, and they are the
5 Utility which is empowered to find better energy
6 solutions, and they have not. They're still relying on
7 coal. Natural gas, I guess I can accept that as a
8 temporary transfer to totally carbon-free energy.

9 I'm disappointed that the Commission and the
10 representatives of the parties have no questions for the
11 people that are calling in. We're all very, very
12 committed to clean energy, and I would hope that given
13 that the goals that our county and our city has and that
14 our President has set for carbon-free energy by 2030,
15 that Duke would get on board.

16 We've looked to them for leadership and they
17 haven't really picked up the ball, and I don't quite get
18 that. They've worked with our county and our city, and
19 we've done things here locally to reduce the need for a
20 peaker plant, and I don't understand where Duke's head
21 is. Coal energy until 2070. Technology is here.
22 Storage technology is here for solar energy.

23 And I encourage you to send them back to the
24 drawing board and come into the 21st century. And I also

1 endorse and affirm everyone that has spoken -- has
2 spoken -- has spoken before me, and I'm happy to respond
3 to any questions.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
5 Rackoff. Are there questions from parties or the
6 Commissioners?

7 (No response.)

8 Ms. Rackoff, just for the benefit of the court
9 reporter, just to be sure the record is clear, your first
10 name is one word, right, Maryanne?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you, with an "e" on
12 the end.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's great. Thank
14 you. I just want to be sure we get that in the record.
15 Thank you for being with us this evening.

16 THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you,
17 Commissioner.

18 (Witness excused.)

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
20 Edmondson? Thank you.

21 MS. EDMONDSON: The next witness is Ken Brame.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
23 Brame, can you hear me?

24 MR. BRAME: Yes, I can.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Let's
2 give you the oath.

3 KEN BRAME; Having first been duly affirmed,
4 Testified as follows:

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Give us your
6 name, your address, your electricity provider, and then
7 proceed.

8 THE WITNESS: My name is Ken Brame. I live in
9 15 Morning Star Drive, Leicester, North Carolina, and my
10 provider is Duke Energy Progress.

11 STATEMENT BY MR. BRAME:

12 First of all, I would like to thank the
13 Commission for rescheduling this so that more of us would
14 have a chance to speak without having to stay up all
15 night long. We really appreciate that. I'm sure you
16 guys do as well, and women. Thank you for doing that.

17 First of all, I'd just like to make a couple
18 points. I'll try to be brief because I know you've got a
19 long evening ahead here. First of all, I would really
20 encourage Duke in their IRP to make sure that we're
21 maximizing all energy efficiency options prior to
22 building new generation to keep cost low for taxpayers
23 and avoid unnecessary investments in higher cost fossil
24 fuel technologies. Energy efficiency is clearly the

1 cheapest option available to reduce energy usage rather
2 than building capacity.

3 Secondly, I would really encourage Duke, in
4 their IRP, to accelerate the retirement of all their coal
5 plants by closing half of the coal fleet by 2025 and
6 achieving a coal-free energy production by 2030. They're
7 no longer cost effective, they're costing money, and we
8 can actually save ratepayers money by closing those
9 sooner rather than later.

10 Thirdly, I am very disturbed by Duke's reliance
11 on building additional gas combustion plants and --
12 because they do release carbon dioxide, and certainly
13 super potent methane is released during the fracking
14 process. But basically if that happens, it will prevent
15 both Duke and North Carolina and the cities and counties
16 that have these goals from meeting our climate goals, and
17 more importantly is we, as ratepayers, willing to --
18 footing the bill for that because I think there's no
19 question that in order for the US to meet their climate
20 commitments, as well as the rest of the world, that gas
21 powered electric plants will be forced to shut down well
22 before they're depreciated, their normal operational
23 life, and that means they'll end up writing those off and
24 we will have paid as ratepayers for plants that will not

1 be in production and, therefore, the cost of those plants
2 will be even greater than projected if it's amortized out
3 over a long period of time. So I think it's important
4 that ratepayers be protected by not making some -- cost
5 into gas power plants that will be forced to close early.

6 Certainly, today, both wind and solar are not
7 only the cleanest form of energy, but the most cost
8 effective energy apply right now. They're cheaper to
9 build, and certainly the ongoing operating costs really
10 make a difference.

11 A recent study by the Energy Innovation
12 Organization, as well as Sierra Club and others, have
13 showed that North Carolina could boost its renewable
14 energy by 66 percent by 2035, at the same time decreasing
15 cost to ratepayers. So I would really want to encourage
16 Duke and you, as a Commission, to challenge this IR---
17 these IRP assumptions and send folks back to the drawing
18 board, and let's come up with an IRP that reflects where
19 this country is going, where we have to be, and what's in
20 the best long-term interest to ratepayers.

21 Thank you for giving us the opportunity to
22 speak this evening.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Brame.
24 Does anyone have questions for Mr. Brame this evening?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any, so
3 again, sir, thank you for sharing your views with us this
4 evening, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the evening.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

8 MS. EDMONDSON: The next witness is Karen
9 Hodges.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
11 Hodges, are you there?

12 MS. HODGES: Yes. I hear you.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's great. Let's
14 get you sworn.

15 KAREN HODGES; Having first been duly affirmed,
16 Testified as follows:

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

18 THE WITNESS: My name is Karen Hodges. I live
19 at 2641 Palm Avenue in Charlotte, 28205, and my
20 electricity provider is Duke Energy Progress.

21 STATEMENT BY MS. HODGES:

22 I thank you for giving me the opportunity to
23 speak this evening. I'm here because of my deep concern
24 about greenhouse gas emissions that are leading to global

1 warming. We're in the midst of a true climate emergency,
2 with little time left to address it, and what I saw when
3 I read Duke's IRP was a failure to recognize that.

4 Climate chaos is already costing us so much
5 that it's simply not in the public interest to skimp or
6 hold back on investing in renewable energy, and I can
7 attest to that from personal experience.

8 My husband and I purchased a home in Charlotte
9 some 20 years ago, and we did not buy flood insurance.
10 There was no reason to. Our lot was not in a designated
11 flood zone, and the house had been standing since the
12 1950s with no high water issues, but that changed as
13 severe weather events began to increase with global
14 warming. In one night of heavy rain, flooding completely
15 destroyed the heating unit in our crawlspace. Its
16 replacement cost us \$10,000, and that was only the
17 beginning. Flood insurance and other corrective measures
18 are a significant budget item for us every year now.
19 Experts project that in order to handle such weather
20 events flood insurance premiums already need to increase
21 by a factor of four, with much greater increases to come.

22 Now, some of our neighbors lost their homes
23 entirely, and the City had its own associated expenses.
24 But this was no Super Storm Sandy. It was no Hurricane

1 Florence. The losses were small by comparison, and they
2 were nothing compared to what escalating climate chaos is
3 expected to bring. The few displaced homeowners did not
4 become climate refugees, no political strife ensued, no
5 one died, no species was driven to extinction. All lost
6 was money. But this should be one more wakeup call that
7 we can't go on with business as usual. It's time for
8 bold, creative action to care for this planet home of
9 ours.

10 And that's why I'm asking the Utility
11 Commission to reject Duke's IRP as it stands. Duke must
12 get serious about decreasing its greenhouse gas
13 emissions, and that would mean retiring all its coal
14 plants as fast as humanly possible and replacing them
15 with renewable energy. It would also mean an end to any
16 new gas investment, because gas is not clean energy in
17 spite of how it's been advertised.

18 And finally, I ask the Utilities Commission to
19 set up an evidentiary hearing to examine the figures used
20 in the IRP to support Duke's slow walking its transition
21 to renewable energy. We need to see why many other
22 utility companies in this country and around the world
23 are finding practical ways to move faster.

24 I agree with so many of the strong points made

1 by others this evening, particularly with regard to
2 environmental justice, but I'll stop here, and I want to
3 thank the Commission for giving me and other citizens a
4 voice in this process.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
6 Hodges. We appreciate your coming to speak tonight. Are
7 there questions for Ms. Hodges from anyone?

8 (No response.)

9 All right. Again, thank you for joining us,
10 Ms. Hodges, and I hope you have a good evening.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

12 (Witness excused.)

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

14 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is Karen
15 Bearden.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. So we're
17 skipping to Karen Bearden. Ms. Bearden, are you there?
18 Ms. Bearden, can you hear me?

19 MS. EDMONDSON: IT is having -- they will --
20 they're unmuting her right now, I believe.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

22 MS. BEARDEN: Can you hear me now?

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We can hear you now.

24 MS. BEARDEN: Okay. I think --

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
2 Bearden. Thank you for joining us.

3 MS. BEARDEN: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let's give you the
5 oath, please.

6 KAREN BEARDEN; Having first been duly affirmed,
7 Testified as follows:

8 THE WITNESS: My name is Karen Bearden,
9 B-E-A-R-D-E-N. My address is 1809 Lake Park Drive,
10 Raleigh, 27612, and my provider is Duke Energy Progress.

11 STATEMENT BY MS. BEARDEN:

12 I'd like to thank you all for allowing the
13 public to share their comments. I so appreciate the
14 great comments I've heard tonight. I'm missing being
15 with friends in downtown Raleigh to share our comments in
16 person together.

17 We are in a climate emergency. Where is Duke
18 Energy's sense of urgency? Duke Energy now gets only
19 around 5 to 7 percent of its electricity from renewables
20 and projects to be at only 14 percent by 2035. The
21 national average was 17.6 percent in 2019. I read last
22 week in an article that Duke Energy "Unveils plan to
23 triple the amount of renewable power it produces by the
24 end of the decade to 23 percent of its total from current

1 levels of around 7 percent." Twenty-three percent is
2 still way too small, and it's so unacceptable considering
3 the climate crisis we are in.

4 Duke Energy has announced they will be net zero
5 by 2050. We need real zero by 2050. We need to be at
6 100 percent renewable energy by 2035 at the latest, using
7 solar, wind, battery storage, energy efficiency, and
8 geothermal. No false solutions like more gas plants,
9 carbon capture storage, hog waste biogas, and small
10 nuclear plants that Duke is proposing.

11 Some critical points connected to two articles
12 by Bill McKibben, author, climate activist, and co-
13 founder of 350.org, "If one wanted a basic rule of thumb
14 for dealing with the climate crisis, it would be stop
15 burning things. Human beings have made use of combustion
16 for a very long time ever since the first campfires
17 cooked the first animals for dinner allowing our brains
18 to get larger. Now those large brains have come to
19 understand that burning stuff is destroying the stable
20 climate on which civilization depends. A couple weeks
21 ago I said that the first principle fighting the climate
22 crisis was simple; stop lighting coal, oil, gas, and
23 trees on fire as soon as possible. Today I'll offer a
24 second ground rule corollary to the first. Definitely

1 don't build anything new that connects to a flame."

2 I urge the North Carolina Utilities Commission
3 to reject this IRP and demand more. Again, we are in a
4 climate emergency. Where is Duke Energy's sense of
5 urgency? Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
7 Bearden. Does anyone have questions they want to ask Ms.
8 Bearden this evening?

9 (No response.)

10 If not, Ms. Bearden, thank you for joining us
11 and sharing your views this evening.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

13 (Witness excused.)

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

15 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Our next witness is Kurt
16 Nichols.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
18 Nichols, are you there?

19 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, I am.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's great. Let's
21 get you sworn.

22 MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

23 KURT NICHOLS; Having first been duly affirmed,
24 Testified as follows:

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

2 THE WITNESS: My name is Kurt Nichols. I
3 reside at 9204 Four Mile Creek Road, Charlotte, North
4 Carolina, 28277, and I believe, but I'm not sure, that my
5 energy provider is Duke Energy Progress. I'm not really
6 sure because all I see on my bills is Duke Energy, so
7 that's where I stand with that.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: It's most likely Duke
9 Energy Carolinas, but that's okay. Please do proceed
10 with your statement.

11 THE WITNESS: Is it Duke Energy Carolinas?
12 Yeah. Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: If you're in
14 Charlotte. Please proceed with your statement.

15 STATEMENT BY MR. NICHOLS:

16 Okay. Thank you. First of all, I would like
17 to thank the Commission for this opportunity to voice my
18 opinion. This is a public service that's very necessary
19 that you hear our concerns.

20 As I stated, my name is Kurt Nichols, and I'm
21 the grandfather of five grandchildren ranging in age from
22 three to 13 years. My wife and I, my son and daughter-
23 in-law, and all of my grandchildren all reside in
24 Charlotte.

1 I would like to state that Duke Energy's IRP
2 must be totally rejected as proposed. I repeat, totally
3 rejected and sent back to give us an IRP that states
4 something real. I am extremely concerned about the
5 effects of air and water pollution on the physical and
6 mental health of my children and grandchildren and, in
7 effect, all of our children and grandchildren. If we
8 continue on the path of global climate destruction that
9 we are now on, there is a coming destruction of life as
10 we know it for future generations.

11 I want positive action to begin reversing the
12 degradation of the climate and environment. I want
13 positive action, not maintenance. I want all coal plants
14 closed by 2030. Duke pays for cleanup and disposal of
15 coal ash, not the consumer. All disposable must be in an
16 approved scientific fashion that will not impact the
17 environment negatively and not paid by the ratepayer.
18 Since Duke controls our lakes and waterways, we must also
19 hold them responsible for polluting our water.

20 I believe that 70 percent clean energy by 2030,
21 as Governor Cooper's Clean Energy Plan proposes, is not
22 aggressive enough, but since Duke is a monopoly, this
23 will not be possible unless competition is allowed to
24 provide and produce clean, green energy. In other words,

1 let competition provide energy to ratepaying consumers.
2 Allow consumer solar -- or community, I'm sorry -- solar
3 and wind power. Price fossil, gas, solar, wind, and
4 battery storage accurately. Do not hide the true economy
5 of alternative power sources. No fracked gas plants.

6 In conclusion, we call energy providers public
7 utilities, but the public has no say in these utility
8 companies, so let's take the control and oversight and
9 practices out of the hands of the industry personnel and
10 investment banks and put it in the plain sight of the
11 public. Our first step is put non-industry public
12 citizens on the board of directors in equal number to
13 industry insiders and investment bankers.

14 In closing, I'd like to say one thing. Pierre
15 Dansereau stated as the first of his 27 laws of ecology
16 the Law of the Inoptimum. The Law of the Inoptimum
17 states "No species encounters in any given habitat the
18 optimum conditions for all of its functions." Let's do
19 our best not to make our habitat worse, but to optimize
20 what we can.

21 Thank you, again, to the Commission for
22 allowing me to put my two cents in. Thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
24 Nichols. Excuse me. Does anyone have questions for Mr.

1 Nichols?

2 (No response.)

3 All right. Again, excuse me. Thank you, Mr.
4 Nichols, for joining us this evening.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

7 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is Mary
8 Lynn Lyle.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Lyle, are you
10 there?

11 MS. LYLE: I'm here. Can you hear me?

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's great. I can
13 hear you just fine.

14 MS. LYLE: Good.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let's give you the
16 oath.

17 MARY LYNN LYLE; Having first been duly affirmed,
18 Testified as follows:

19 THE WITNESS: My name is Mary Lynn Lyle, at 700
20 North East Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27604, and my
21 provider is Duke Progress.

22 STATEMENT BY MS. LYLE:

23 So thank you so much for having this hearing
24 tonight. I know it's a long evening for you.

1 I am President of Interfaith Creation Care of
2 the Triangle. It's a network of 300 people associated
3 with 67 communities of faith. Believing we have a sacred
4 duty to protect all creation, we are guided by faith,
5 informed by science, and focused on environmental
6 justice.

7 People of faith have a long history of speaking
8 the truth about injustice. Climate injustice is no
9 exception and, in fact, we need to build a stronger
10 history in speaking up against climate injustice. Our
11 interfaith network is speaking tonight through me on
12 behalf of people of color and people of low wealth who
13 are suffering the worst effects of climate change now,
14 and we're speaking for future generations who will suffer
15 terribly.

16 In our view, the Duke plan, with its different
17 scenarios, is not up to the challenges posed by the
18 climate crisis. We understand that Duke is required to
19 find the least cost energy source for its power. Now,
20 Duke could do that and still adhere to North Carolina's
21 climate goals -- excuse me -- and reduce greenhouse gas
22 emissions 70 percent by 2030.

23 First, the Duke plan ignores the least cost
24 options of energy efficiency and demand response,

1 proposing less energy efficiency than in the last plan,
2 and Duke should bump up these goals back to the 2018 plan
3 levels and then go much further.

4 Second, Duke's coal plants are not economic and
5 they cost ratepayers billions, and they should all be
6 gone by 2030.

7 Third, Duke underestimates the cost of building
8 new gas plants. It's more, not less, expensive than
9 renewables. Duke gains income from building new gas
10 plants, while ratepayers could be charged \$4.8 billion
11 for these plants that will need to be retired early if we
12 solve this climate crisis.

13 Fourth, on lower cost renewables that create
14 more local jobs, Duke uses inaccurate cost for storage
15 and doesn't use efficient combinations of solar and
16 storage. It's shameful that Duke's goal of 15 percent
17 renewables in 2035 will put us below the current national
18 average of 19.8 percent renewables. Currently, Duke uses
19 only 6 percent renewables.

20 And fifth, the plan increases rates for all its
21 scenarios when it should reduce customers' energy burdens
22 and provide debt forgiveness and ensure all families have
23 equitable access to clean energy.

24 So we believe there are realistic scenarios and

1 technologies available to Duke today that can bring us to
2 North Carolina's climate goals and reduce greenhouse gas
3 emissions 70 percent by 2030. Given the inadequacies of
4 this IRP and its scenarios, I question whether Duke has
5 the vision, the will, or the capability to plan and
6 execute a clean energy scenario in time to adequately
7 meet the current climate crisis unless -- unless the
8 Utilities Commission regulates in a new, a challenging,
9 and a revolutionary way.

10 I leave it with you, and ask God's blessing
11 upon you and upon all of us. And thanks again.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Are there
13 any questions anyone has for Ms. Lyle?

14 (No response.)

15 If not, then Ms. Lyle, thank you very much for
16 participating in the hearing this evening.

17 THE WITNESS: I appreciate it. Thanks.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

21 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Our next witness is
22 number 19 on the list, John Stephen Thomas.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
24 Thomas, are you there?

1 MR. THOMAS: Can you hear me?

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you just
3 fine, so let's get you sworn in.

4 MR. THOMAS: Okay. Great.

5 JOHN STEPHEN THOMAS; Having first been duly affirmed,
6 Testified as follows:

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
8 proceed, sir.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is John Stephen
10 Thomas. I live at 116 Shadow View, Leicester, North
11 Carolina, 28748, and I use Duke Energy Progress.

12 STATEMENT BY MR. THOMAS:

13 Also, I just want you to know I'm a longtime
14 member of the Sierra Club. I'm Co-Chair of the Care
15 Creation Ministry at St. Eugene's Catholic Church in
16 Asheville, and I'm also an active participant in a group
17 called Energy Savers Network where we weatherize homes of
18 low-income families. And I also have rooftop solar,
19 although it does not generate a hundred percent of my
20 electrical needs.

21 I'm just saying that to kind of give you an
22 idea that I've put my time, energy, and money where my
23 mouth is --

24 (TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY - RECESS TAKEN)

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
2 Thomas, are you still there?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. I tell you
5 what we're going to do, is let's start from scratch with
6 you. We've got Ms. Garrett back with us. And so just to
7 be sure she's got a complete transcript, let's just state
8 your name, your address, your electricity provider, and
9 then start your statement over again from scratch.
10 Thanks to everybody for your patience. Technology is a
11 wonderful thing.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is John Stephen
13 Thomas. I live at 126 Shadow View, Leicester, North
14 Carolina, 28748, and my provider is Duke Energy Progress.

15 STATEMENT BY MR. THOMAS:

16 And I started out pointing out that I was a
17 long-time member of the Sierra Club. I'm a Co-Chair of
18 the Care Creation Ministry at St. Eugene's Church, and an
19 active participant in Energy Savers Network where we
20 weatherize homes of low-income families to cut their
21 utility bills. And, also, I have rooftop solar. I
22 pointed out I'm just saying this to show that I spend my
23 time, energy, and money where my ideals are. Okay.

24 So my main starting point was simply that

1 because of the crucial role of energy utilities, not just
2 in North Carolina, but everywhere, they have a moral
3 obligation to society as a whole. They need to take a
4 holistic approach to the impact of their decisions and
5 actions.

6 I know when I was growing up there was this
7 kind of commercial called like pay now or pay a lot more
8 later, and people have referred to the cost in lives and
9 money of extreme weather, of the health impacts of
10 pollution, and so forth, so these are things that should
11 be taken into account in any kinds of decisions that are
12 made, not just kind of like bottom-line decisions as far
13 as energy cost per unit and so forth.

14 So I think that to me, it makes no sense to
15 invest any money, any future money, in fossil fuel
16 generation. I mean, I understand we're still operating
17 primarily on fossil fuel, so it's not going to go away
18 overnight, but we need to have all new money going into
19 clean energy and then in a step-by-step process, but as
20 quickly as feasible phase out all the fossil fuel
21 generation, especially in the next 10 to 20 years,
22 because we also need to listen to what the international
23 community of climatologists have to say about this
24 because there will be an impact, for example, on sea

1 level rise, which definitely affects North Carolina, and
2 it will affect North Carolina. And there's many other
3 negative aspects to using fossil fuels that we need to
4 counteract.

5 And, of course, Duke Energy can't do it all by
6 itself, it's going to require a global effort, but we
7 have to do our part. We have to do our part. And if
8 everybody does their part, then I think we can get out of
9 this crisis that we're facing, but it's going to take a
10 lot of effort on a lot of people's part, including energy
11 utilities like Duke. And I'm hoping that the Utilities
12 Commission and Duke Energy, as well as other energy
13 companies around the country and the world, also follow
14 suit. So thank you very much.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
16 Thomas. Does anyone, parties or the Commissioners, have
17 questions for Mr. Thomas?

18 (No response.)

19 All right. I don't see any, Mr. Thomas, so we
20 thank you for joining us, and enjoy the rest of your
21 evening.

22 THE WITNESS: And thank you for letting me
23 speak.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Sure. Ms. Edmondson?

1 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness, and I
2 may mispronounce this name, is number 21 on our list,
3 Norna -- Lorna Chafe.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Is it Ms.
5 Chafe or is it Ms. Chafe? Are you there?

6 MS. EDMONDSON: It may take a minute. IT was
7 having to determine which line. There were two lines
8 that she might be on.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I see. Okay.

10 MS. CHAFE: Hello. Can you hear me?

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes. Is it Ms. Chafe
12 or Ms. Chafe?

13 MS. CHAFE: It's Ms. Chafe.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Very good. Ms.
15 Chafe, welcome this evening. Let's give you the oath.

16 LORNA CHAFE: Having first been duly affirmed,
17 Testified as follows:

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
19 proceed.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you so much. I am Lorna
21 Chafe of 274 Carolina Meadows Villa, Chapel Hill, North
22 Carolina, 27517. I have been a Duke Energy customer for
23 50 years, ever since 1971.

24 STATEMENT BY MS. CHAFE:

1 Thank you for the opportunity to speak against
2 the Duke Energy plan. I am a 79-year-old grandmother
3 from Chapel Hill, a former teacher and social worker. I
4 am a member of the Women's International League for Peace
5 and Freedom, and I also sing with the Raging Grannies.

6 I have done several things to try to reduce my
7 own carbon footprint, buying a plug-in hybrid car,
8 limiting my driving by planning ahead and doing shopping
9 and errands in one area at a time, I've put solar panels
10 on my roof, and I pull down shades and close curtains to
11 keep out the sun in summer and everything I can think of
12 to limit my energy use.

13 I am trying to make my diet more vegetarian,
14 but this isn't going to make a difference unless our
15 country and the world put this as one of our very top
16 priorities and speed up our efforts to curb our carbon
17 emissions.

18 I have seen terrible storms rip across our
19 country, and lately I have feared the destructive
20 tornadoes that we have had in the South that send us
21 cowering into our inner rooms and our bathrooms, it
22 seems, every couple of weeks. It didn't used to be this
23 way. Our hundred-year storms have become commonplace.
24 What does this have to do with Duke Energy's plan? Its

1 fracked gas production will increase the methane in the
2 atmosphere because the process of fracking causes methane
3 to leak out of the ground. Methane is even worse than
4 carbon dioxide at causing climate change.

5 Duke Energy is going far more slowly in
6 converting to green energy than most other power
7 companies. It's dragging its feet in this critical time.
8 It now makes only 5 percent of its energy from renewable
9 sources, and has the highest number of coal-burning
10 plants in the country. This looks so bad for North
11 Carolina which is such an up and coming area to attract
12 business and new residents.

13 And fracking also uses an enormous amount of
14 water to cool down the drills that are clearing a path
15 through the rock to get to the gas that is trapped in the
16 cracks of the rocks. This water that is used to cool
17 down the drills is a precious resource needed for human
18 survival and in very short supply in many parts of the
19 world. Using it for fracking and then leaving it
20 polluted is a terrible waste of this resource. It would
21 be better to look for more places to harness moving water
22 to make energy, to encourage research to learn how we can
23 utilize wave motion in the ocean and other ways to create
24 electricity.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you so much. Goodnight.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Goodnight.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

5 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is
6 number 22 on the list, Judith Kaufman.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
8 Kaufman, can you hear me? Ms. Kaufman, are you there?

9 (No response.)

10 Mr. McCoy, I see her phone number on the
11 attendee list. Have we got her unmuted?

12 MR. MCCOY: Yes, sir, but there's no response
13 on either one, 17 or 35.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Let's --
15 I mean, she's showing on the list, so let's just
16 temporarily skip Ms. Kaufman and we'll come back to her a
17 little later. Who would be next, then, Ms. Edmonson?

18 MS. EDMONDSON: Let me check with IT. Let's
19 see. Number 23 on the list, Lib Hutchby.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
21 Hutchby, are you there?

22 MS. HUTCHBY: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. I can hear
24 you fine. Let's give you the oath.

1 LIB HUTCHBY; Having first been duly affirmed,
2 Testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. You may
4 proceed. Your volume is a little faint, so if you have a
5 way of turning of your volume up, that would help, but we
6 can hear you.

7 THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is Lib Hutchby. I
8 reside at 108 Standish Drive, Chapel Hill, North
9 Carolina.

10 STATEMENT BY MS. HUTCHBY:

11 I, too, am very concerned about Duke Energy's
12 current IRP which is totally inadequate, totally
13 inadequate. I want to support all of those who have
14 spoken in previous comments who would also agree that
15 this IRP should be rejected and rewritten with the
16 reality of the urgency of climate crisis in the plan.

17 I grew up in North Carolina, and I've learned
18 through years of observation and asking questions that
19 Duke is about as transparent as a solid piece of pine.
20 It has a monopoly of electric energy in North Carolina,
21 extracts over 2,000 gallons of water each minute just to
22 keep Shearon Harris nuclear power facility cooled.

23 It makes backroom deals out of public view and
24 has extracted fees and requested unreasonable rate

1 increases for years and years, and now seems to still be
2 unwilling to take responsibility for its nonaction around
3 the climate crisis, at times requesting 7 to 12 percent
4 rate raises, when employee hiring was frozen and no one
5 got a raise. In fact, even if you went to the bank, your
6 bank account was only, you know, less than 1 percent or
7 five-tenths, so there was no way to make money at that
8 rate.

9 I discovered that Duke Energy will do most
10 anything to make money, to profit, to make their
11 shareholders feel good, but will build totally
12 unnecessary coal-fired plants like Cliffside, and they
13 tried to build a totally unnecessary pipeline through
14 nine counties, risking methane disasters, destroying
15 life-giving trees and endangered species. After decades
16 of claiming to be modern and up to date, their current
17 IRP reads like a sad tale written by someone who forgot
18 what year this is. I digress.

19 I'll be 80 years old in a few years, and I
20 remember when former President Carter put solar cells on
21 the Whitehouse. That was over 50 years ago. And at the
22 time my former husband worked at NASA. Over 40 years
23 ago, scientists at Research Triangle Institute just down
24 the road from us were developing photovoltaics. What was

1 Duke doing? Duke was continuing to pollute the air and
2 contaminate rivers with coal ash.

3 Why is Duke soft pedaling the climate crisis?
4 I just -- I really don't understand it. Why is Duke
5 trying to build natural gas facilities when they're not
6 needed and they would spew methane and it would be worse
7 for everyone? Why is Duke going to the Legislature to
8 get our rates raised? Why is Duke Energy advertising as
9 a "climate leader" when they refuse to install solar that
10 can be shared as a third party? Why does -- actually,
11 why do you, the NC Utilities Commission, allow Duke
12 Energy to get by with holding its users hostage to
13 antiquated energy systems? Yes, it actually feels
14 scandalous.

15 The words justice and climate reality crisis
16 remind us that all of us are connected. Every one of us
17 are connected. Water is essential to life, and the top
18 three most costly energy producing systems are nuclear,
19 coal, and natural gas, all which require more water than
20 geothermal, solar, or wind.

21 I thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I
22 want to remind you that geothermal uses less water than
23 any other form of energy production today. If you want
24 cleaner water or air, you will reject Duke's IRP and send

1 them back to prepare a more equitable and just plan that
2 acknowledges that the climate really is in crisis, which
3 means all essential beings need clean water to be healthy
4 in this crisis.

5 Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak
6 and for your patience throughout these different meetings
7 that you had to plan. Thank you, sir.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
9 Hutchby, for speaking this evening. Let me ask if any of
10 the parties or Commissioners have questions for Ms.
11 Hutchby?

12 (No response.)

13 I don't see any, so, again, thank you for your
14 patience in waiting with us tonight to speak, and thank
15 you for coming.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

18 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Twenty-fourth on the
19 list, Mayo Taylor.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mayo
21 Taylor, my apologies to you. I'm not sure whether --
22 Mayo could be Mr. or Mrs., so I'll let you introduce
23 yourself.

24 MS. TAYLOR: It's a Mrs. and it's Mayo. Thank

1 you.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Ms.
3 Taylor, let me swear you in, please.

4 MAYO TAYLOR; Having first been duly affirmed,
5 Testified as follows:

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
7 proceed.

8 THE WITNESS: And I'm Mayo Taylor. I live at
9 87 Old Haw Creek Road in Asheville, North Carolina,
10 28805, and I'm a ratepayer of Duke Progress.

11 STATEMENT BY MS. TAYLOR:

12 I've been listening both to the previous two
13 sections of this hearing and tonight, and there have been
14 a lot of very eloquent people, so I've kind of really
15 stripped mine down. I endorse all of the statements that
16 have been made about Duke's relation to climate change
17 and their -- their ability to do more than they are
18 doing, and particularly in abandoning fossil fuel.

19 I'm going to hit one particular part of the
20 plan that I am struck with when looking through the
21 materials, and that is projection -- is its projections
22 for implementation of wind power. The scenarios B, E,
23 and F that do exceed the 70 percent carbon reduction by
24 2035 have pathways that show no implementation of wind

1 above base assumption before 2029. This is despite the
2 fact that North Carolina has been rated as having the
3 best offshore wind potential on the East Coast and that
4 Amazon has been producing onshore in North Carolina since
5 2017.

6 If I had to say so, I'd say this report reads
7 like one that was done in a different decade under a
8 different leadership because, of course, it was. Things
9 have changed. The political landscape has shifted to
10 make a much more robust rollout of wind possible. We've
11 moved from a federal administration hostile to wind
12 energy to one that plans to deploy 30 GW by 2030. A
13 bipartisan -- bipartisan group of North Carolina
14 congressional members have petitioned the Bureau of Ocean
15 Energy Management to begin leasing areas of the coast for
16 generations.

17 At the state level we've moved from a state
18 legislative moratorium on wind to the North Carolina
19 Clean Energy Plan that supports wind and the Governor's
20 Executive Order 80. We've received the very impressive
21 offshore wind study from the North Carolina Department of
22 Commerce that details its interest in the wind industry
23 as an economic engine for the state.

24 So the winds of change have been blowing. 2029

1 is -- seems to me too slow, that surely Duke, with its
2 experience with wind in other areas, notably Texas, can
3 do better, and I would ask the Commission to work with
4 Duke and with the other providers that are included in
5 your responsibilities to reflect these new realities and
6 to increase the speed and scale of wind implementation.
7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
9 Taylor. Does anyone have questions for Ms. Taylor this
10 evening?

11 (No response.)

12 I don't see any, so, again, thank you for your
13 patience in waiting for your time to speak, and we
14 appreciate your coming.

15 THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

18 MS. EDMONDSON: The next witness is number 30
19 on the list, Judi Egbert.

20 MS. EGBERT: Yes. Hello.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Egbert, can
22 you --

23 MS. EGBERT: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We can hear you, so

1 let me swear you in.

2 MS. EGBERT: Yes.

3 JUDI EGBERT; Having first been duly affirmed,
4 Testified as follows:

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
6 proceed.

7 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. And my thanks
8 to the Commission for allowing testimony about the Duke
9 IRP this evening, and thanks to the specific perspectives
10 and suggestions that have been brought up there. I won't
11 reiterate them --

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Egbert -- Ms.
13 Egbert, I'm sorry to interrupt you.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let's first get your
16 name, your address, and who provides your electricity
17 service.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes. I apologize for that. Yes.
19 Judi Egbert. That's spelled J-U-D-I, and then
20 E-G-B-E-R-T. And I live at 713 Champion Street in
21 Clayton, and it's my understanding that even though we
22 pay our utilities to the Town of Clayton and Piedmont
23 Natural Gas, that much or all of that comes from Duke
24 Energy.

1 STATEMENT BY MS. EGBERT:

2 And as I was saying, that the suggestions are
3 very valuable and I hope will be taken seriously, the
4 testimony from other people.

5 The activities and priorities of any energy
6 company in one area of North Carolina inevitably impact
7 air, water, and land quality for everyone in the state,
8 so I think this is a broad -- it covers the whole state
9 of North Carolina. And it's with deep concern that I
10 reviewed the current proposal by Duke Energy and saw
11 virtually no commitment to or interest in environmental
12 wellbeing. Their proposal that reflected prolonged
13 reliance on fossil fuels disregards the wellbeing of the
14 environment in which we all live.

15 A company may say that it is providing the most
16 cost-effective energy to its customers, but that
17 disregards the real cost in environmental destruction and
18 health care that are inevitable with persistent reliance
19 on fossil fuel, as has been pointed out by a number of
20 people this evening. The frontline workers who procure
21 fossil fuels, as well as the consumers of the products,
22 suffer vastly greater negative impact to their wellbeing
23 compared to people who work in or consume energy produced
24 from renewable resources.

1 As a major provider of energy, Duke has both
2 the opportunity and the responsibility to diminish its
3 role in the growing problem of greenhouse gas emission.
4 Duke currently is among the most polluting energy
5 leaders, again, pointed out by a number of people this
6 evening, and yet Duke has the power and the resources to
7 reverse that, to take a lead in greater reliance on
8 renewable and healthier energy sources, and this is the
9 forethought and leadership that I look forward to and
10 expect from a revised Duke IRP.

11 And I'd like to thank you for the opportunity
12 to share these thoughts this evening.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
14 Egbert, for coming and participating in the hearing.
15 Does anyone have questions for Ms. Egbert?

16 (No response.)

17 All right. I don't see any, so, again, thank
18 you, Ms. Egbert, for sharing your views tonight.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

21 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is Kathy
22 Kaufman.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
24 Kaufman?

1 MS. KAUFMAN: Hi. Can you hear me?

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes. I can hear you
3 just fine, so let me swear you in.

4 MS. KAUFMAN: Thank you.

5 KATHY KAUFMAN; Having first been duly affirmed,
6 Testified as follows:

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
8 proceed.

9 MS. KAUFMAN: Okay. Thank you. My name is
10 Kathy Kaufman. My address is 1305 Lucy Lane, Chapel
11 Hill, 27516, and I'm a Duke Energy Carolinas customer.

12 STATEMENT BY MS. KAUFMAN:

13 Thank you for this opportunity to speak. In
14 late 2017 I retired from the US Environmental Protection
15 Agency in Research Triangle Park after 29 years as an air
16 quality policy analyst. I led Clean Air Act regulatory
17 efforts and coordinated economic analyses, including the
18 employment analysis for the Clean Power Plan. So today
19 I'm going to focus on economic issues.

20 Duke Energy plans to build a large fleet of
21 expensive gas-burning power plants in North Carolina
22 between now and 2034, the useful life of which would
23 extend well beyond 2050. Along with the costly pipeline
24 infrastructure to support this buildout, we ratepayers

1 would be saddled with increasing cost at the same time
2 that solar, wind, and energy storage, as well as energy
3 efficiency prices, are rapidly falling -- efficiency
4 costs would be rapidly falling as well.

5 Duke's IRP analysis supporting its plans are
6 fundamentally flawed in ways that several commenters,
7 such as the North Carolina Sustainable Energy
8 Association, have pointed out in great detail, in
9 contrast to current economic trends and also in contrast
10 to the plans of other utilities around the country who
11 are taking advantage of these trends.

12 Recent well-regarded analysis indicates that
13 due to the rapid decline in the cost of renewables, the
14 cost of clean energy generation is likely to be lower
15 than the cost of new gas plants for 90 percent of the
16 proposed construction in the US by the date the plants
17 are expected to begin operating. The analysis concludes
18 that 90 percent of proposed new gas-fired power plants
19 are likely to be uncompetitive by 2035. And I cited this
20 in my submitted written comments.

21 As noted in the analysis and quoted recently in
22 Forbes, these changes are already contributing to
23 cancellation of planned new natural gas power generation.
24 The need for these new natural gas plants can be offset

1 through clean energy portfolios of energy storage,
2 efficiency, renewable energy, and demand response. These
3 current economic trends should give us all pause about
4 Duke's plans for new baseload natural gas in North
5 Carolina, so consider solar, wind, and battery storage.

6 Solar. According to the United States
7 Environment -- Energy Information Administration's latest
8 inventory of electricity generators, developers and power
9 plant owners plan for almost 40 GW of new electricity
10 generating capacity to start commercial operation this
11 year. Solar will account for the largest share of new
12 capacity at 39 percent, followed by wind at 31 percent.
13 Natural gas will account for only 16 percent and mostly
14 in just three states, Texas, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

15 Now, wind. With respect to wind energy, DOE
16 has also recognized that wind generation is cheaper than
17 fossil fuel around the country and that wind has long-
18 term cost advantages. According to the Department of
19 Energy, as wind generation agreements typically provide
20 20-year fixed pricing, the electric utility sector is
21 anticipated to be less sensitive to volatility in natural
22 gas and coal fuel prices with more wind. By reducing
23 national vulnerability to price spikes, supply
24 disruptions with long-term pricing -- and supply

1 disruptions with long-term pricing, wind is anticipated
2 to save consumers \$280 billion by 2050. Right now, North
3 Carolina ratepayers are not benefiting from any of those
4 savings.

5 Energy storage. According to the respected
6 journal Science, in an article titled "Giant Batteries
7 and Cheap Solar Power are Shoving Fossil Fuel Off the
8 Grid," a 2019 analysis of more than 7,000 global storage
9 projects by Bloomberg New Energy Finance reported that
10 the cost of utility-scale lithium-ion batteries had
11 fallen by 76 percent since 2012 and by 35 percent in just
12 the past 18 months. Another market watch firm, Navigant,
13 predicts a further having by 2030.

14 In addition, in 2018, FERC issued two new
15 regulatory orders aimed at easing incorporation of energy
16 storage. The precipitous drop in the price of storage is
17 paving the way for its adoption around the country.

18 The above-cited article also points out that in
19 2010 California passed a mandate that the state's
20 utilities install electricity storage equivalent to 2
21 percent of peak electricity demand by 2024. Given the
22 current precipitous drop in price -- precipitously
23 dropping price for storage, there's no reason that the
24 Utilities Commission should not require Duke Energy's IRP

1 analyses to take seriously the idea of adding significant
2 storage to its portfolio, especially in the context of
3 addressing peaks.

4 Storage has major advantages. It can obviate
5 the need for expensive transmission line buildout, making
6 the adoption of solar and wind resources even more
7 attractive in terms of cost. Critically for North
8 Carolina, the availability of stored energy would also
9 enable greater resilience in the face of the more
10 frequent storms, hurricanes, and floods we will continue
11 to face.

12 Finally, jobs. According to the most recent
13 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the two fastest
14 growing job categories in the US have been solar
15 installer and wind turbine technician. Prior to COVID-
16 19, clean energy employed approximately 112,000 people in
17 North Carolina. Clean energy's growth here outpaced the
18 national average at 10.4 percent between 2015 to 2019.
19 This is far more than employed by fossil fuel electric
20 generation, even though the majority of our energy in NC
21 comes from fossil fuels. Imagine the employment boon we
22 would generate by unleashing renewable energy and energy
23 efficiency in our state. Is my time up?

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Kaufman, I need

1 you to come to a conclusion, yes. Can you finish with --

2 THE WITNESS: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- a final sentence
4 for us?

5 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm just about done. Do
6 we really want to lock in a major buildout of natural gas
7 plants when it's clear the ever cheaper and cleaner
8 alternatives are being taken up around the country?

9 The Governor's Clean Energy Plan, which I
10 participated in stakeholder meetings for, calls on
11 regulated utilities to incorporate these costs in their
12 analyses of the relative cost such as in energy
13 resources, knowing those costs can help you, the
14 Utilities Commission, hold regulated power providers to
15 lower cost sources such as wind, solar, storage, and
16 efficiency. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
18 Kaufman. We appreciate your coming to testify this
19 evening. Let's see if anyone has any questions for you.

20 (No response.)

21 No. So thank you again for bearing with us,
22 staying with this evening.

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

1 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Commissioner Clodfelter,
2 we have one more witness that we have identified, and
3 then I believe we have one or two callers that we have
4 not identified, but we will open up their lines after
5 this next witness.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Who is
7 the next witness, then?

8 MS. EDMONDSON: The next witness is number 32
9 on the list, Lynda Hambourger.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
11 Hambourger, are you there?

12 MS. HAMBOURGER: Yes. I'm here.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. You're a
14 little bit faint, so if you could turn your volume up,
15 that would help.

16 MS. HAMBOURGER: Okay. I'll try. How is that?

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's much better.
18 Thank you for doing that. Let me swear you in.

19 LYNDA HAMBOURGER; Having first been duly affirmed,
20 Testified as follows:

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. All right.
22 Please proceed.

23 THE WITNESS: Okay. I am Lynda Hambourger. My
24 address is 101 Candelight Court, Durham, North Carolina,

1 27707, and I'm a customer of Duke Energy.

2 STATEMENT BY MS. HAMBOURGER:

3 Thank you very much for the opportunity to
4 speak to you about this IRP.

5 As a grandmother of seven, I am extremely
6 concerned about climate change and what it will mean for
7 future generations. The science is conclusive. We need
8 to stop the use of fossil fuels and the greenhouse gases
9 they produce. We know what needs to be done, so let's do
10 it.

11 I would like to suggest that Duke Energy become
12 a leader in the use of renewables. Duke Energy is a
13 major corporation with significant resources. It can do
14 so much better than the proposed IRP. It should take a
15 visionary approach. Eliminate the use of coal now. Do
16 not invest in a false, temporary transition using natural
17 gas. Be a real leader in the use of renewables to solve
18 this looming catastrophe.

19 As many have said, humanity is facing an
20 existential crisis. Everyone, including Duke Energy,
21 must step it up to address the crisis. There are new,
22 expensive technologies which sequester carbon dioxide and
23 other greenhouse gases, thus keeping them out of the
24 atmosphere. These technologies are important for climate

1 change, but there's another way to sequester fossil
2 fuels, and that is don't dig them up at all. Keep them
3 in the ground, and greenhouse gases are pre-sequestered.

4 The next decade and a half are critical for
5 stopping runaway climate change. Individuals can play
6 their own small parts. I, myself, drive an EV. I eat a
7 plant-based diet, compost, and recycle, limit my air
8 travel, and do many other small things. But individuals
9 cannot solve this problem. Only large, influential
10 institutions can do that. Duke has the power to make a
11 significant leading impact. It has the responsibility.
12 It is time for Duke to do its part.

13 I ask the Commission to reject this IRP, demand
14 that Duke make a real contribution to solving climate
15 change in keeping our planet livable for the sake of all
16 of our grandchildren. Thank you so much.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
18 Hambourger. Are there questions from parties or the
19 Commissioners?

20 (No response.)

21 I don't see any, so, again, thank you for
22 coming to testify this evening.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson, where

1 does that leave us now?

2 MS. EDMONDSON: So I have been corrected by IT.
3 We have numbers 34 and 35 on the list, and then there are
4 two callers that have not been identified, so --

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right.

6 MS. EDMONDSON: -- number 34 is Margaret
7 Peeples.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
9 Peeples, can you hear me?

10 MS. PEEPLES: I can hear you.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Excellent. And we
12 can hear you, so let me swear you in.

13 MARGARET PEEPLES; Having first been duly affirmed,
14 Testified as follows:

15 THE WITNESS: My name is Margaret Peeples. I
16 live at 838 Heather Lane in Charlotte, 28209. My home
17 gets its electrical energy from Duke Energy Carolinas,
18 but my other significant energy supplier is, of course,
19 our sun. Let us not forget.

20 STATEMENT BY MS. PEEPLES:

21 I shall begin my testimony by invoking the
22 spirit and care of the people who came before us in North
23 Carolina, the Cherokees, the Catawba, and the other
24 indigenous people who remind us of their reverence for

1 this place, this land, the animals and plants that we
2 live with in the sunshine with the wind and under the
3 stars. Long has it all been here. We humbly thank all
4 who came before us and gave so generously of their energy
5 and ideas and song.

6 I ask why does Duke Energy forsake us? We,
7 their family and friends, their pets, wild animal
8 companions, fruit trees, gardens, farm plants, wilderness
9 trees, why does Duke Energy forsake future generations of
10 people, animals, and plants? Why has Duke Energy
11 condemned us to breathe more polluted air year after
12 year, forcing asthmatic people to gasp their next breath?
13 Why must we endure stronger and more destructive
14 hurricanes that bring more flooding? Why must we fear
15 decades of droughts, dust, and firestorm?

16 Duke Energy's giant corporate footprints sink
17 into the global soil and pollute the air of Mother Earth.
18 The scientists speak and Duke Energy listens, but only
19 for monetary gains and losses. Duke Energy refuses to
20 see the present and future consequences of its fossil
21 fuel addiction and its devastation.

22 For over 50 years climate scientists have told
23 us how our planet is losing its balanced atmosphere,
24 baking us in CO2 and methane pollution. Now natural gas

1 drilling and pipe leaks pour more methane into our air
2 and our atmosphere grows hotter and hotter? Natural gas
3 is mostly methane, and methane is a hundred times more
4 lethal at trapping heat than CO2. Now the oceans are
5 force to absorb more CO2, becoming more acidic, and krill
6 and other ocean creatures now live in a toxic soup where
7 they struggle to create shells and bones.

8 Burning natural gas for electricity is even
9 worse for our climate than burning coal, a faster way to
10 create hell on earth. The plants that nourish our bodies
11 now find less of the nutrients they need in a depleted
12 soil and are less able to keep us healthy. Dr. Drew
13 Shindell, a noted climatologist at Duke University, and
14 40 former EPA officials have urged Duke to stop the
15 natural gas expansions and invest in cleaner and cooler
16 and cheaper renewables. Instead, Duke Energy plans to
17 build 30 large natural gas-burning power plants all
18 across North Carolina.

19 These natural methane pollution power plants
20 and their natural gas drilling sources and pipes and
21 transport will increase leakage and venting of methane,
22 making our atmosphere even hotter and hotter. Duke
23 Energy has forsaken us and dropped us all into their coal
24 ash ponds of profit and despair. No profit now is worth

1 the obliteration of our present and futures on this
2 planet.

3 The airport runways in Phoenix recently started
4 to melt in the summer, stopping all takeoffs and
5 landings. The glaciers are melting. More land is
6 exposed to the heating rays of the sun. The glaciers all
7 over the planet shrink and melt and send water into our
8 oceans and rivers. They release into the atmosphere long
9 held methane created by microorganisms from within. A
10 report from 2019 on Greenland's ice sheet summer runoff
11 showed that immense quantities of methane were exported
12 from beneath the ice. The glaciers in the Andes are
13 shrinking, melting, spewing their methane, as are the
14 Himalayan glaciers, the Alpine glaciers and the Canadian
15 glaciers.

16 All our futures depends on stopping the
17 overheating of our atmosphere and turning to renewable,
18 clean energy resources like solar, wind, wave, and
19 geothermal. Our breathable futures are right ahead of us
20 if we would just reach for them together. We must
21 forsake this deadly path of greed and lift our hearts and
22 minds to a much better future, a future where we, the
23 people, and other living creatures can all breathe
24 together. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
2 Peeples, and thanks for your patience in a long hearing.
3 Let's see if anyone has any questions for Ms. Peeples.

4 (No response.)

5 I don't see any, so, again, thank you for
6 waiting to give your testimony this evening, Ms. Peeples.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson? Ms.
10 Edmondson?

11 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Number 35 on the list is
12 Kennedy Goode.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. And, again, I
14 could guess this could be either Mr. or Mrs., so I'll let
15 Kennedy Goode introduce himself or herself.

16 MS. GOODE: Hi. This is Ms. Kennedy Goode.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Very good. Thank
18 you, Ms. Goode. Let me swear you in, please.

19 KENNEDY GOODE; Having first been duly affirmed,
20 Testified as follows:

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. You may
22 proceed.

23 THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is Kennedy Goode.
24 My address is 2711 Red Willow Lane, Winston-Salem, North

1 Carolina, and I have Duke Energy of the Carolinas.

2 STATEMENT BY MS. GOODE:

3 So good evening. I hope you are all doing
4 well, and thank you for this opportunity to speak at this
5 hearing tonight.

6 My name is Kennedy Goode, and I am a sophomore
7 at UNC Chapel Hill majoring in Public Health, with a
8 concentration in Health Policy Management. As a black
9 woman who is passionate about public health and the
10 health of all individuals in our state, approving this
11 IRP would be a grave mistake.

12 Since 2020, I have been working with the Energy
13 Democracy Leadership Institute to expand my knowledge of
14 energy democracy and climate justice. Energy democracy
15 is a concept that emphasizes that all communities have an
16 inherent right to choose an energy system that is
17 localized, resilient, democratically controlled, and
18 based on renewable sources. Energy democracy needs to be
19 the basis for how Duke's Integrated Resource Plan is
20 assessed.

21 Many families in our state face utility
22 shutoffs due to the high energy burden and lack of energy
23 choice under Duke's monopoly. The constant rate hikes
24 that Duke would demand in order to pay for this IRP

1 propose massive buildout of new fracked gas
2 infrastructure, and is unaffordable and immoral.

3 As so many people are struggling with economic
4 hardships and health impacts from the past year, we need
5 energy democracy now more than ever. COVID-19 is a
6 respiratory illness, therefore, lower-income communities
7 and communities of color that are disproportionately
8 impacted by air pollution from coal and gas-fired power
9 plants face greater risk from COVID-19 as well.

10 And even if we think about the future, assuming
11 we ever return to pre-pandemic ways of doing things,
12 fracked gas power plants also generate huge amounts of
13 fracked wastewater that will inevitably pollute clean
14 water, creating a clean water crisis in many communities
15 where these 58 proposed fracked gas plants would be
16 placed.

17 It is essential to consider future generations
18 when making decisions like the ones you're making today.
19 Consider all the BIPOC communities who would be put in
20 danger because of these unnecessary and unjust fracked
21 gas plants that Duke Energy proposes for no one's benefit
22 but its shareholders.

23 Our communities will continue to be the ones
24 who are impacted first and worst, but please remember

1 that we all face the consequences of the decisions made
2 today and the future. Expanding fossil fuel
3 infrastructure is exactly the opposite of what we need to
4 be doing right now. So think of the health of your
5 family members, your children, your nieces, nephews, and
6 grandchildren, as you have the power today to protect our
7 health, our environment, and the place that we call home
8 in the end, our earth.

9 Myself and other North Carolinians are
10 depending on the North Carolina Utilities Commission to
11 act in our best interest and make a decision that
12 benefits us, not just the Duke Energy shareholders.
13 I urge you to reject this IRP and to ensure that Duke
14 Energy must do better for the people of North Carolina.
15 Thank you so much for your time.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms. Goode,
17 and thank you for your patience this evening during the
18 hearing. Are there questions for Ms. Goode?

19 (No response.)

20 All right. If not, again, thank you for being
21 with us and giving your statement this evening.

22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson, do we

1 have anyone left?

2 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. I believe IT has just
3 indicated there are -- what they say are four mystery
4 numbers, so let them unmute them one at a time.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Do we know who they
6 are?

7 MS. EDMONDSON: No. I believe they're going to
8 have to unmute them and see who is on --

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right.

10 MS. EDMONDSON: -- or if someone is on.

11 MR. REES: Hello.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes.

13 MR. REES: Hello.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Who do we have? Yes.
15 Please --

16 MR. REES: Yeah. This is John Rees. I asked
17 to be switched to my cell phone, which may be the reason
18 you don't recognize this number from my landline.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Rees, I see you
20 here on the list, so let me swear you in, please.

21 JOHN REES; Having first been duly affirmed,
22 Testified as follows:

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. If you
24 will state your name, give us your residence, and tell us

1 who your electricity provider is, and then proceed.

2 THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm John Rees. I'm at 2465
3 Stonehenge Park Drive in Raleigh, 27613. I'm a Duke
4 Progress customer.

5 STATEMENT BY MR. REES:

6 And thank you for the opportunity to speak. I
7 hope it was worth the wait. I'm active with several
8 faith-based organizations, including Interfaith Creation
9 Care of the Triangle, North Carolina Interfaith Power and
10 Light, and Creation Care of the North Carolina United
11 Methodist Church.

12 I have a unique perspective from both sides of
13 the energy equation. For 20 years I worked with various
14 industries, including the Utilities, to burn coal and
15 other fossil fuels. In 2004, I went to work at North
16 Carolina State University and went there for -- worked
17 there for 10 years in renewable energy and energy
18 efficiency programs. I've been involved in energy and
19 climate issues ever since.

20 As a society we've taken actions and made
21 progress toward reducing CO2 emissions, but not nearly
22 enough. We no longer talk just about preventing climate
23 change; we can now only talk about reducing warming below
24 the most disastrous levels and finding ways to deal with

1 it. It's time to stop talking past each other. It's
2 time for both sides to start listening to each other and
3 working toward a common goal. It's time for the fossil
4 fuel industry and electric utilities to acknowledge that
5 renewable energy and storage solutions may have greater
6 short-term costs that are far less costly in the long run
7 than the catastrophic repercussions of climate change.

8 As a large institution, it's time for Duke
9 Energy to take a leadership role in aggressively reducing
10 CO2 emissions rather than waiting for guidance from the
11 North Carolina Legislature, guidance that's not likely to
12 come anytime soon.

13 It's time for climate activists to acknowledge
14 that the cost of solar and wind includes not only the
15 cost of the energy when the sun shines and the wind
16 blows, but the cost of storage and backup generation when
17 wind and solar are not available. It's time for climate
18 activists to acknowledge Duke's monumental challenge of
19 eliminating CO2 emissions, while providing a hundred
20 percent reliable power.

21 It's time for all parties to come to the table
22 and develop a comprehensive energy plan that includes
23 demand-side efficiency measures and supply-side CO2 free
24 generation with an eye toward maximum CO2 reduction.

1 Eighty years ago our entire country responded to an
2 attack from outside our borders with an all-out effort to
3 prevail in World War II. Sixty years ago we responded to
4 President Kennedy's challenge to put a man on the moon.
5 We met that challenge successfully in less than 10 years.
6 Today we face an attack of our own making from an
7 invisible enemy of CO2 that threatens our lifestyle and
8 our lives. We can, and we must, meet that challenge with
9 the same determination and ingenuity as we did in World
10 War II and the space race. We have an opportunity to
11 make America first again. Our children and our
12 grandchildren will either thank us for doing the right
13 thing or blame us for leaving behind an unlivable planet.
14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Rees.
16 Are there questions this evening for Mr. Rees from
17 anyone?

18 (No response.)

19 Again, Mr. Rees, thank you for your patience
20 and waiting this evening. We appreciate your testimony.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson, where
24 are we now?

1 MS. EDMONDSON: I think we have a couple more
2 lines to unmute.

3 MS. KAUFMAN: Hello?

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes. Who do we have?

5 MS. KAUFMAN: Hello?

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes.

7 MS. KAUFMAN: Can you hear me?

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you just
9 fine.

10 MS. KAUFMAN: Oh. This is Judith Kaufman.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ah, Ms. Kaufman. We
12 missed you earlier, so I'm glad we were able to get you
13 back.

14 MS. KAUFMAN: Yes. Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let me give you the
16 oath, please.

17 MS. KAUFMAN: Yes.

18 JUDITH KAUFMAN Having first been duly affirmed,
19 Testified as follows:

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. You may
21 proceed, please.

22 MS. KAUFMAN: My name is Judith Kaufman. I
23 live at 201 River Ridge Drive, Asheville, North Carolina,
24 and my energy supplier is Duke Progress.

1 STATEMENT BY MS. KAUFMAN:

2 And after reviewing Duke Energy's proposed IRP,
3 I'm compelled to speak to the Commission this evening out
4 of concern for myself, family, community, and state.

5 Duke is required to provide clean, reliable,
6 and affordable energy to the citizens of North Carolina,
7 and this proposed plan ignores many of those
8 responsibilities. As for the clean energy component,
9 Duke is currently operating six coal plants, two of which
10 are the dirtiest in the nation. Their plan is to
11 continue operating them all until 2049, when several of
12 them could be closed much sooner with no ill effects on
13 their customers. Additionally, Duke is planning to build
14 several gas-fired plants when in many ways they are more
15 polluting than coal.

16 In addition to providing clean energy,
17 renewables are now less expensive than fossil fuels,
18 fulfilling the clean, affordable portion of the
19 requirements that Duke is supposed to achieve. In order
20 for our state, community, citizens, and businesses to
21 flourish, North Carolina needs to be a leader in clean
22 air, water, and affordable energy.

23 To that end, I would ask the Commission to
24 require Duke to close all of those coal plants no later

1 than 2030, build no more gas-burning plants, and invest
2 heavily in solar, wind, and battery storage.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for
4 your consideration.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
6 Kaufman, and thanks for waiting with us this evening.
7 Does anyone have questions for Ms. Kaufman?

8 (No response.)

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Seeing no
10 questions, again, thank you for joining us this evening.

11 THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you for the
12 opportunity. Goodbye.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good night.

14 (Witness excused.)

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

16 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Commissioner Clodfelter,
17 I believe we now have Ken Szymanski on the line, and then
18 there are two other unidentified callers after that.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Mr. Szymanski,
20 can you hear me?

21 MR. SZYMANSKI: I can. I'm on the line. I hope
22 you can hear me.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you just
24 fine. Let me swear you in.

1 KEN SZYMANKSI; Having first been duly affirmed,
2 Testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
4 proceed.

5 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm Ken Szymanski. I
6 reside at 4139 Sulkirk Road in Charlotte at 28210, and
7 Duke Energy Carolinas is my provider.

8 STATEMENT BY MR. SZYMANSKI:

9 I was the Executive Director for the Apartment
10 Association of North Carolina for 30 years, and I would
11 like to speak to the need for discounted Duke Energy
12 rates for low-income customers in North Carolina in the
13 context of Duke Energy's 2020 Integrated Resource Plans.

14 I would note that none of the scenarios in the
15 Duke Energy IRP explicitly detail how Duke Energy plans
16 to deal with energy poverty, nor does it expand existing
17 programs for the many thousands of existing eligible
18 households who could benefit from both residential and
19 grid level energy efficient measures.

20 Today I'm speaking on behalf of myself, the
21 Charlotte-Mecklenburg climate leaders in a group called
22 One Meck. The IRP addresses cost, reliability, and
23 societal impact. In the past, that has always meant
24 minimizing cost to meet explicit reliability and societal

1 requirements. Those all changed for 2021 because of the
2 uncertainty introduced by climate change, the accelerated
3 pace of technology change, and the need to plan beyond
4 the 15-year IRP limit. Now, instead of minimizing cost
5 for an explicit reliability and societal impact, we must
6 optimize cost, reliability, and societal impact, a much
7 more complex challenge. I realize that the IRP is not a
8 ratemaking exercise, but this is an excellent time to
9 examine these issues.

10 The Duke Energy leaders have gone on record as
11 saying that affordability is really important and, in
12 fact, elevated affordable and clean energy as a key
13 component of eradicating poverty in its 2018
14 Sustainability Report, where Duke cited the importance of
15 access to basic services. And to its credit, Duke has
16 held the line on rate increases, taking a conservative
17 approach that benefits many customers.

18 The problem is that for Duke Energy customers
19 who live in poverty, Duke's rates are not within their
20 reach because their buying power is too low. Fifteen and
21 a half percent of Duke's nearly 3 million North Carolina
22 customers live in poverty, nearly 500,000 households, so
23 the fundamental problem for these households is inability
24 to pay one's electric bill. If the income is too low,

1 affordability cannot be obtained even with relatively
2 cheap rates.

3 An industry rule of thumb is that households
4 should not spend more than 6 percent of their income on
5 heating, cooling, lighting, and appliances. In
6 Charlotte, the median household spends 4 percent of their
7 income on energy, but the most under-resourced households
8 spend more than three and a half times that percent, 14
9 percent.

10 For Duke Energy Carolinas alone over the last
11 four years, monthly disconnections for nonpayment have
12 more than doubled, from 4,900 in January of 2016, to over
13 11,000 in January of 2020, and now tally over 100,000
14 disconnections annually. Our current reactive approach
15 in North Carolina is to line up emergency funds to stave
16 off utility disconnections or just let households fend
17 for themselves. A proactive approach with discounted
18 utility rates for poverty households seems smarter. It
19 would clearly lower the hardship of disconnection
20 substantially.

21 In the most recent 12-month period, an average
22 of 26 percent of all DEC residential customers were
23 charged a late payment fee each month. During that same
24 period an average of over 9 percent of all residential

1 customers were sent a notice of disconnection each month.
2 These are signs that residential customers are
3 experiencing trouble affording their electric bills and,
4 of course, this is most acute with low-income households.

5 Eleven other states have successfully tackled
6 the objective of discounting utility rates for low-level
7 households, including Georgia and Arizona. Depending on
8 income levels, these states' programs discount bills for
9 low-income customers by anywhere from 8 percent to 76
10 percent, or cap bills at a percent of income such as 7,
11 8, or 9 percent.

12 In addition to the consideration of discounted
13 Duke Energy rates for low-income customers, it is
14 important to also understand the residential environments
15 that these North Carolinians live in. Quite commonly
16 these households reside in a least energy efficient and
17 oldest housing, meaning they have to consume more
18 kilowatt hours and expend more dollars to achieve the
19 same comfort level as their middle- and high-income
20 fellow citizens due to poor energy efficiency and result
21 in wasted energy.

22 Here in 2021, Duke Energy does partially
23 address this through provision of both the Helping Home
24 Fund and a Carolinas Weatherization Program.

1 Collectively, these two programs improve the energy
2 efficiency of 2,300 customer homes through the
3 expenditure of \$7.5 million annually. However, at the
4 current pace of Duke improvements forecasted out over the
5 next 20 years, this rate of energy upgrades would
6 collectively only address 10 percent of the state of
7 North Carolina's low-income housing weatherization needs.

8 North Carolina low-income housing dwellers need
9 both more thermally efficient dwellings and discounted
10 Duke Energy electric rates in order to be able to afford
11 their electricity and avoid the grim and difficult
12 choices they now must make about home comfort or losing
13 their residence due to utility disconnection,

14 I exhort the Utilities Commission and Duke to
15 swiftly implement an intelligent discounted rate
16 structure and substantially stepped up Helping Home and
17 weatherization programs. North Carolina needs, and has
18 needed, more cost-effective energy efficient measures to
19 be prepared for our collective future as we optimize
20 cost, reliability, and societal impact. Thank you for
21 your consideration.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
23 Szymanski, and thank you also for your many, many long
24 years of service in North Carolina. Does anyone have any

1 questions for Mr. Szymanski?

2 (No response.)

3 I don't hear any, so you have a good evening,
4 what remains of it.

5 THE WITNESS: Likewise.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

9 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. I think we have two
10 numbers that we wanted to unmute, so we'll go with the
11 first one.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right.

13 MR. HUDSPETH: Good evening. This is John
14 Hudspeth. I just heard the beep beep.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes, indeed, Mr.
16 Hudspeth. Let me find you on my list. I have you now.
17 Please, let me get you sworn in.

18 JOHN HUDSPETH; Having first been duly affirmed,
19 Testified as follows:

20 THE WITNESS: I am John --

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. You may
22 proceed, sir.

23 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. I'm John
24 Hudspeth. I appreciate you getting me on. I think I

1 used my cell phone, perhaps, as my contact number, but
2 I'm calling you from my landline. I live at 11130
3 Johnson Davis Road in Huntersville, which is on Mountain
4 Island Lake. I get my electrical power from Duke Energy
5 Carolinas through Energy United, and I currently live
6 about 2.2 miles from Duke's McGuire Nuclear Power Station
7 and about one mile from the Riverbend Power Station and
8 coal ash ponds.

9 STATEMENT BY MR. HUDSPETH:

10 So first, I want to say I've listened to all
11 these wonderful testimonies tonight and some from
12 previous sessions, and I have a new appreciation of the
13 work you Commissioners are doing in listening to all this
14 information, so thank you for being so patient, and thank
15 your staff for working through this pandemic to find a
16 way that we can all connect. I really appreciate all
17 your work on this.

18 And so I served for about six years on the
19 Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission and, you know, got
20 to work with some -- Duke Energy through that experience.
21 I've been active in some environmental activism
22 coalitions in Charlotte. I work with Extinction
23 Rebellion, 350 Charlotte, Sierra Club, and also the
24 NAACP, and I grew up in North Carolina in Mooresville. I

1 watched Duke build Lake Norman when I was a kid. I know
2 a lot of people that work with Duke, so I have
3 appreciation for the people in the Company, but -- and
4 I'll try to just make it short because I noticed -- I've
5 heard some wonderful testimonies. Particularly, the ones
6 that resonated with me were Mrs. Nilsen, Reibold,
7 Portone, and Mr. Nichols. What I heard was several
8 things. I heard that we need to acknowledge that we're
9 in a climate crisis, a climate emergency that threatens
10 all life on the planet, we need to greatly accelerate our
11 energy transition from fossil fuels to renewables, and we
12 need to ensure that we protect our most vulnerable people
13 through environmental and climate justice.

14 So I think we need to take into consideration
15 the true cost of this environmental emergency, and I
16 think that's not being looked at in Duke's plans. I've
17 read through Duke's IRPs, and I urge you to reject the
18 IRP. I'm encouraged that other Commissions in Virginia
19 and North Carolina have rejected IRPs and sent -- sent
20 people back to come up with something that's really more
21 relevant to what our current needs are, so --

22 I believe we need to retire all our coal plants
23 by 2030 and we need to replace those with renewables like
24 solar and wind on our coast. No more new gas. I think

1 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. There is one more line to
2 unmute, I believe.

3 MR. REES: Hello.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes. Who do we have?

5 MR. REES: Oh. This is John Rees again, so I
6 have already spoken.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. That
8 would be correct. So Mr. McCoy, do we have anyone else?

9 MR. McCOY: No, sir. That is it.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Thank you
11 all who are still following us and listening in for your
12 participation this evening. Let me make -- our next
13 session will be on May 12th, that's next Wednesday, at
14 6:00 p.m. Let me make a couple of suggestions to those
15 of you who are watching us who will be testifying at a
16 future session. As I announced earlier at the beginning,
17 we now have posted on the Commission's website the list
18 of procedures that we follow for these remote public
19 hearings, so if you will go to the Commission's website,
20 www.ncuc.net, at the top of the page there's a tab for
21 Hearings and Meetings, and if you will open that tab and
22 scroll down, you'll see a tab for procedure for remote
23 public hearings. And if you'll will click on that, that
24 will tell you how it will go for you if you're planning

1 to speak at any of the upcoming public hearings.

2 A second request I would make of you is if
3 you've given the Public Staff when you registered a
4 telephone number different from the telephone number that
5 you are using when you call in to speak, we're not able
6 to identify people except by the telephone number they
7 gave the Public Staff when they registered. So if you're
8 planning to use a different telephone when you call in to
9 testify, please call ahead and let the Public Staff know
10 that you will be using a different telephone number.
11 That will help us identify you during the course of the
12 hearing.

13 Again, thank everybody for their patience and
14 for their participation this evening, and we will at this
15 point close the record until May the 12th. Thank you
16 all.

17 (The hearing was adjourned.)

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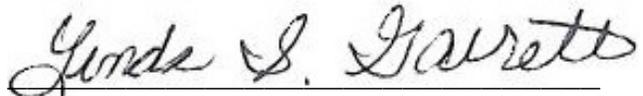
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Linda S. Garrett, Notary Public/Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing hearing before the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. E-100, Sub 165 was taken and transcribed under my supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of said Hearing.

I do further certify that I am not of counsel for, or in the employment of either of the parties to this action, nor am I interested in the results of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 18th day of May, 2021.



Linda S. Garrett, CCR
Notary Public No. 19971700150