

Exhibit 1B

STATEMENT OF NEED

1.1 BIENNIAL AND ANNUAL IRP REPORTS

DEP’s 2020 Integrated Resource Plan Biennial Report (“IRP”) and the filed 2022 Carbon Plan and Appendices E (Quantitative Analysis) and I (Solar) to the 2022 Carbon Plan are included as Exhibit 1A. The Company’s 2020 IRP discusses the Asheville Plant Solar Facility in the Western Carolinas Modernization Plan (“WCMP”) update located in Appendix N. The IRP includes 15 MW of solar that represents the solar required to meet the Company's commitment to the WCMP referenced on page 383 of the Company's 2020 IRP. The Company subsequently included the proposed Asheville Plant Solar Facility in the 2022 Carbon Plan as part of the “Incremental Forecasted Solar” described on pages 25 and 26 in Appendix E to the Carbon Plan. The Asheville Plant Solar Facility will enable the Company to provide safe, cost-effective, and reliable service for DEP’s customers. Additionally, by constructing and operating the solar facility, the Company will satisfy the solar requirements laid out in the WCMP.

1.2 RESOURCE AND FUEL DIVERSITY

The comprehensive planning process for the 2020 IRP demonstrates that a combination of renewable resources, DSM/EE programs, and additional base load, intermediate, and peaking generation are required over the next fifteen years to reliably meet customer demand. The solar PV generation of the Asheville Plant Solar Facility will contribute to the diverse resource mix identified in the IRP. The solar facility does not require any additional fuel to operate, and no fuel will be stored at the site.

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While PV solar installations provide little to no capacity value at the time of the Company’s winter peak, solar does provide valuable energy with zero fuel cost. As such, the Asheville Plant Solar Facility will contribute to meeting the energy needs of the DEP system.

Additionally, as part of the WCMP that was approved in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1089, the Commission accepted DEP’s commitment to solar and storage projects and directed DEP “to file as soon as practicable the CPCN to construct at least 15 MW of solar at the Asheville Plant or in the Asheville region. The Commission further urges DEP to move forward in a timely manner with the 5 MW storage project in the Asheville region.” (WCMP CPCN Order at p. 38) Along with furthering its commitment to site solar and storage technologies in the western region, the Asheville Plant Solar Facility and future

Company facilities will support the goals and objectives of the WCMP and complies with the WCMP CPCN Order.

The Asheville Plant Solar Facility is projected to produce approximately 19,761 MWh per year. This corresponds to a 23.7% net capacity factor. The service life of the asset is 35 years.