

**Green, Erica**

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**From:** Megan Krintz <megan.krintz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 15, 2020 10:46 AM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Docket E-2 Sub 1257

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hello,

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter that needs to be resolved. We need solar installation in our community and your recent recommendation is against it. Here's why I think this is a mistake.

In 2015, as part of the agreement that our community struck with Duke Energy to close the Lake Julian coal power plant, Duke agreed to build 15 megawatts of new solar energy in our community. This was an integral part of the overall plan to retire coal and begin transitioning to clean energy. The NC Utilities Commission acknowledged this agreement in approving Duke's Carolinas Modernization Project that included the new gas plant.

The first 5 megawatts in the plan Duke was to be a solar project on the retired landfill in Woodfin. Buncombe County issued a request for proposals, which was won by Duke to build and maintain the solar installation on the landfill.

It's not good policy to ignore the commitments made by our community to reduce local generation with fossil fuels. The retired landfill in Woodfin is affordable and not suited to other development. Buncombe County has waived the lease on the land for this project. The project will benefit our community with new solar jobs and reduced carbon emissions. It is needed to advance our City/County goal of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2042.

Importantly, when the Modernization Plan was approved, all parties - the Commission, Duke and our Community - understood that this local solar installation was essential. **To reverse course five years later is a betrayal. Please support the Modernization Plan as originally approved so that we can be on track to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.**

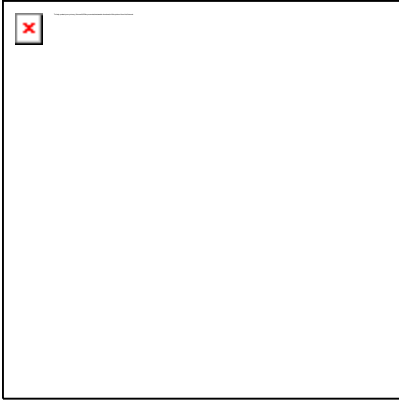
**Thanks for your attention to this matter,  
Megan Krintz**

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**Megan Krintz**

(she/her/hers)

Field Instructor



**Muddy Sneakers** 44 W. Jordan Street | P.O. Box 146  
Brevard, NC 28712 office: (828) 862-5560  
[www.muddysneakers.org](http://www.muddysneakers.org)



*"To awaken in children a deeply felt connection with the natural world — one that inspires curiosity, stimulates learning, and brings new life to classroom performance."*

## Green, Erica

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**From:** Marguerite Leek <margopolo12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 5:49 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Approve the Buncombe County Solar Project

**Categories:** Blue category

Good Afternoon,

My name is Marguerite. I am a resident of Western North Carolina. I am writing to implore you to approve the solar project on the old landfill site. This is an opportunity to use the site to improve the community. The site in Woodfin is affordable, and not suited for other development. The project will provide new solar jobs for the community, and help Buncombe county stay on track for their goal to be 100% renewable by 2042. Further, when Duke Energy closed the coal powerplant in 2015, they made a commitment to build 15 megawatts of new solar energy. The first 5 megawatts were to be the solar project in Woodfin, Buncombe county went as far as putting out a RFP bid which was won by Duke to build and maintain these solar installations. The Utilities Commison should approve the project in Buncombe County to fulfil this commitment.

Thank you, please do what is right for our planet, community, and economy-APPROVE THIS PROJECT.

Marguerite Leek

## Green, Erica

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**From:** Anna Zurliene <aczurliene@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 4:00 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Docket E-2 Sub 1257

Dear NC Utilities Commission,

My name is Anna Zurliene. I am a resident of Asheville emailing to urge you to approve the solar project on the landfill in Woodfin in accordance with the 2015 agreement with Duke Energy to retire coal and build 15 megawatts of solar energy in our community. This would greatly benefit our community economically by providing jobs and in our commitment to all renewable energy by 2042. Asheville is considered a progressive town, one that is true to its values and leads the path towards a sustainable future. We should keep consistent with this in image and in virtue and implement solar energy here, in Buncombe county.

Thank you for your time.

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Anna Zurliene

## Green, Erica

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**From:** kopkinzs@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Zachary Kopkin  
<kopkinzs@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 2:18 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Docket E-2 Sub 1257: Please Approve the Woodfin Solar Facility

*Dear NC Utilities Commission Members,*

*I am writing to urge you to approve the 5 MW solar facility proposed by Duke Energy Progress at 2720 Riverside Drive in Woodfin, NC. This project is a critical component of Duke's 2015 commitment to build 15 new MW of solar energy as part of its Western Carolinas Modernization Project. The NC Utilities Commission has supported and urged timely implementation of Duke's solar commitment, and now your approval is key to moving this commitment forward.*

*When the NC Utilities Commission expressed support for 15 MW of solar in Duke's Western Carolinas Modernization Project, your body acknowledged and supported that if all 15 MW of solar could not fit at the former coal plant, "[Duke] will supplement the on-site solar facility with a combination of rooftop, community, or other utility-scale solar facilities at other locations in the Asheville area." Now that Duke has identified a cost-effective site in our community for this additional 5 MW of solar, I urge you to approve it so the solar installation can be built in a timely fashion.*

*As North Carolina embraces more solar energy, the benefits of this industry should be available to communities here in our western region – not just in parts of the state that have large parcels of flat land. Approving this solar landfill site would bring the benefits of new solar energy directly to our community: solar industry jobs, reducing local carbon emissions, and making real progress on our local renewable energy goals. In this case, the 5 MW solar facility in Woodfin will help Buncombe County meet our adopted resolution to reach 100% renewable energy by 2042.*

*Building solar energy on low-value land like this landfill also meets the unique needs of our community by preserving other land for new affordable housing, tree canopy, public spaces, and other highly valued uses in our region. Further, relocating this 5 MW of solar to a different site in the Asheville area would cost far more than installing the system at the relatively flat, more affordable retired landfill site. If this project is not approved, we question whether Duke will be allowed to fulfill its promise to our community.*

*Please allow Duke to make good on its commitment for 15 MW of solar energy in our region. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.*

*Sincerely,  
Zachary Kopkin*

*109 W Main St Apt C Forest City, NC 28043-3023 kopkinzs@gmail.com*

## Green, Erica

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**From:** Steven Baron  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 2:25 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by Steven Baron

**Categories:** Blue category

## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

Steven Baron

### Email

sbaron@baroncounsel.com

### Docket

E-2 Sub 1257

### Message

November 16, 2020 Electronic submission North Carolina Utilities Commission 4325 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300 RE: Docket No. E-2, Sub 1257, Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a Solar Generating Facility in Buncombe County, North Carolina Dear Commissioners, In its Western Carolinas Modernization Program (WCMP) Order, the Commission observed that “[t]he DEP-Western Region is an attractive place to live, to visit, to retire, and to work . . . .” (WCMP Order at 34.) I myself am a retiree who moved to Asheville two years ago for that reason. Before that, I practiced law in Texas with a primary focus on energy regulatory issues before the Public Utility Commission of Texas. I have followed this docket with interest and respectfully offer the following brief comments on Public Staff’s opposition to DEP’s CPCN application to construct the Woodfin Solar Project. In its WCMP Order, the Commission commended DEP’s work in engaging with Asheville community leaders and directed DEP “to file as soon as practicable the CPCN to construct at least 15 MW of solar . . . in the Asheville region.” (WCMP Order at 38.) DEP thereupon worked diligently with Buncombe County and other local community members and filed its CPCN application for the Woodfin Solar Project pursuant to the WCMP Order. These facts are undisputed in the record evidence. In his responsive testimony, Public Staff witness Jeff Thomas acknowledges the WCMP Order’s directive to DEP to build solar in the Asheville region. Mr. Thomas maintains, however, that the Order does not authorize DEP to build solar “at any cost” but instead “expects DEP to propose cost-effective generation facilities that meet the public convenience and necessity requirement.” (Thomas Testimony at 8.) Mr. Thomas argues that the Woodfin facility is not cost effective as measured by DEP’s levelized 25-year avoided cost rate for solar generators across North Carolina. (See *id.* at 15.) Public Staff is certainly correct that the WCMP Order does not authorize DEP to build solar projects in the Asheville region at any cost. However, Staff’s proposal to apply a strict systemwide avoided cost litmus test for granting CPCNs for such projects is misplaced. Such a test would contradict the Order’s recognition of the special desirability and need for construction 15 MW of solar in the Asheville region. As DEP witnesses Lawrence Watson and Todd Beaver explained in their rebuttal testimony, imposing a current avoided cost requirement would likely have prevented DEP altogether from pursuing its collaboration with community leaders to

develop the Woodfin and other solar projects in the Asheville region. (Watson/Beaver Rebuttal at 7-10). If this is correct, then denial of DEP's Woodfin Solar CPCN application for failure to meet a systemwide avoided cost test would effectively nullify the 15 MW solar project directive in the WCMP Order. While I do not have access to the confidential portions of the testimony, DEP appears to have made a good showing that the Woodfin Solar Project will be built at a reasonable, low cost. The landfill site is uniquely suited to conversion to solar, and the lease cost is below market for the Asheville region. (Watson/Beaver Rebuttal at 11-13). In addition, DEP issued a RFP and conducted a competitive bid process to arrive an estimated capital cost for the project. (Id.) This evidence, combined with DEP's testimony on other issues, seems sufficient to approve DEP's CPCN application. Granting the CPCN in this docket would not and should not guarantee DEP full cost recovery for the Woodfin project. A future rate case is the proper forum for determining the reasonableness and recoverability of the actual costs DEP incurs in constructing and operating the Project. I understand that Commission CPCN orders typically include language with this notation. Inclusion of such language in an order granting the CPCN in this case would be appropriate, as Public Staff itself recognizes. (Thomas Testimony at 23.) For these reasons, the Commission should follow through on its WCMP Order and grant DEP's CPCN application to construct the Woodfin Solar Project. Thank you for considering these comments. Respectfully submitted, Steven Baron Asheville, NC



**Green, Erica**

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**From:** Jeff Baker <jbaker51@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Buncombe County Solar Facility

Dear NCUC

You folks agreed in 2015 to build a solar facility on the old Woodfin landfill—now you want to disregard that and spend the money elsewhere—in other words you do not view this agreement as an agreement. Please honor the earlier negotiations and approve the solar project on the retired Buncombe County landfill so that Duke Energy can complete it as specified in the 2015 Agreement.

Jeff Baker - Asheville

## Green, Erica

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**From:** Tara Granke <tgranke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 11:43 AM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Approve solar for WNC

**Categories:** Blue category

Dear NC Utilities Commission,

Please make good on your 2015 promise and approve the new solar project at Buncombe County's retired landfill. I understand that your staff has recommended denying the project. We want clean energy in WNC!!

Best,  
Tara Granke  
Asheville, NC

## Green, Erica

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**From:** Norman Ray <normray@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 10:39 AM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Request to Approve the solar project on the retired Buncombe County landfill

**Categories:** Blue category

**Please approve the solar project on the retired Buncombe County landfill so that Duke Energy can complete it as agreed.**

**This project will bring benefits to our community: new solar jobs, reducing carbon emissions, making important progress on our county's goal to reach 100% renewable energy by 2042.**

With Gratitude  
Norm Ray  
400 Windswept Dr.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
615-243-5553  
[normray@outlook.com](mailto:normray@outlook.com)



## Green, Erica

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**From:** Sarah Wright <saawright@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 15, 2020 11:41 AM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Reversal of solar plant Docket E-2 Sub 1257

**Categories:** Blue category

*To Whom This May Concern,*

*I am disheartened to hear of your plans to reverse the Buncombe county solar project after an agreement was reached 5 years ago. It's not good policy to ignore the commitments made by our community to reduce local generation with fossil fuels. The retired landfill in Woodfin is affordable and not suited to other development. Buncombe County has waived the lease on the land for this project. The project will benefit our community with new solar jobs and reduced carbon emissions. It is needed to advance our City/County goal of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2042. When this approval was made, all parties involved understood how essential this project would be for our community. Why now are you all attempting to reverse course and go back on your word? The commission should be doing everything it can to hold Duke accountable to its commitment.*

*Thanks for your time,  
Sarah Wright*