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Mount, Gail

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From: Zay Sevier [zaysevier@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 9:51 PM
To: Statements
Subject: Statement of Position

AUG 09 2012

Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

I don't know if I have the correct address, but here is my statement:

E-7 SUB 831

It may be that the NCUC has no jurisdiction regarding Duke Energy's "charitable" actions (I'm speaking here of Duke's light bulb giveaway program), but it seems to me that you should be informed, if not alarmed.

Duke Energy gives away CFL bulbs (made in China) to unsuspecting consumers, with claims that CFLs conserve energy, last up to six times longer than incandescent bulbs, and that customers will save about \$40 in energy costs over the lifetime of the bulb.

These statements are true. But Duke Energy doesn't mention any of the problems associated with CFL light bulbs, doesn't warn customers about the hazards of the CFLs, and doesn't mention any alternative to using the dangerous light bulbs in the home.

On August 2, I wrote to Duke Energy about this matter, comparing CFL bulbs to the emerging LED bulbs. (It is worth noting that Duke Energy fails, as I said above, to mention LED lighting in their hype.)

Excerpts of my letter, which I sent by email, follow:

"... a few facts about light bulbs, and specifically the comparison of CFLs and LEDs.

Yes, CFLs last an average of 6,000 to 12,000 hours. But LEDs last an average of 25,000 to 50,000 hours.

CFLs burn more than twice as many KWhs as LEDs, and operating cost for CFLs is more than double the cost for LEDs.

"... Contrary to your statement, CFLs won't operate well in extreme low temperatures.

LEDs don't have to "warm up" like CFLs do. They emit bright light instantly.

CFLs produce up to three times as much carbon dioxide as LEDs.

"... [CFLs] contain 1 to 5 mg of mercury. No mercury in LEDs. [Because of this, in the UK, CFLs are not RoHS compliant.]

"CFLs produce heightened EMFs (electro-magnetic fields), a severe health hazard for some, another fact you conceal from your customers. No EMFs produced by LEDs.

You also fail to mention the harmful UV radiation produced by CFLs. And LEDs produce no ultraviolet radiation.

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I submit to you: a light bulb that requires special training to dispose of is not something to have in your house. And I can't help but think that a person who undergoes training to dispose of a burnt-out light bulb is himself a dim bulb.

Only two negatives to LEDs. First, the initial cost of LED bulbs is high. But given the life of the bulb, this cost is inconsequential. Second, LEDs that equal the lumens of 100-watt incandescent bulbs are not yet widespread; only a very few companies are producing 1100-1750 lumen LEDs."

I closed my letter by asking if Duke Energy would continue their deceptive practice or if they would do anything to inform their customers of their options. Duke Energy did not answer those questions, but they did reply, thanking me for my inquiry, touting fluorescent bulbs, saying that I could contact them with any other questions, and saying that representatives would be happy to assist me.

I could go on about more dangers from CFLs, but I will just mention two further problems associated with the bulbs: In one scientific test,

"several carcinogenic chemicals and toxins were released when the

environmentally-friendly compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) were switched on,

including phenol, naphthalene and styrene."

Also CFLs have been known to spontaneously erupt into fire from their base.

Given the negative factors associated with Compact Fluorescent Lamps, in my opinion it should be incumbent upon the North Carolina Utilities Commission to do something to prohibit this dangerous practice by Duke Energy.

My question is, will the NCUC follow up on my inquiry regarding the dangers of CFLs? Or will my statement go unaddressed?

Zay Sevier, PhD.

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