

1 PLACE: Person County Courthouse  
2 Roxboro, North Carolina  
3 DATE: Monday, March 13, 2023  
4 TIME: 7:03 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.  
5 DOCKET NO: E-2, Sub 1300  
6 BEFORE: Chair Charlotte A. Mitchell, Presiding  
7 Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland  
8 Commissioner Daniel G. Clodfelter  
9 Commissioner Kimberly W. Duffley  
10 Commissioner Jeffrey A. Hughes  
11 Commissioner Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.  
12  
13  
14

15 IN THE MATTER OF:

16 Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC,  
17 for Adjustment of Rates and Charges Applicable  
18 to Electric Service in North Carolina and  
19 for Performance Based Regulation  
20

21 VOLUME 2  
22  
23  
24

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

2 FOR DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC:

3 Kathleen Richard, Esq.

4 Senior Counsel

5 Duke Energy Corporation

6 410 South Wilmington Street, NCRH 20

7 Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

8  
9 Robert W. Kaylor, Esq.

10 Law Office of Robert W. Kaylor, P.A.

11 353 East Six Forks Road, Suite 260

12 Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

13  
14 FOR THE USING AND CONSUMING PUBLIC:

15 Nadia Luhr, Esq.

16 Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission

17 4326 Mail Service Center

18 Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

19

20

21

22

23

24

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S  
E X A M I N A T I O N S

	PAGE
DIRECT STATEMENTS	
Gordon Powell.....	15
Samantha Bagby.....	19
Allison Satterfield.....	20
Phillip Allen.....	23
Carol Carter.....	26
Coleman McCulloch.....	28
Queen Greene.....	32

E X H I B I T S

(No exhibits were presented)

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

CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening. I'm Charlotte Mitchell, Chair of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. With me tonight are Commissioners ToNola D. Brown-Bland, Daniel G. Clodfelter, Kimberly W. Duffley, Floyd B. McKissick, Jr, and Jeffrey A. Hughes.

I now call hearing Docket No. E-2, Sub 1300, which is the Application of Duke Energy Progress or DEP for adjustment of rates and charges applicable to electric utility service in North Carolina.

As I'm required to do by the State Government Ethics Act, I remind all Members of the Commission of our duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire, at this time, if any member of the Commission has any known conflict with respect to matters coming before us this evening.

(No response)

CHAIR MITCHELL: The record will reflect that no conflicts have been identified, so we will go ahead.

In late 2021, Legislation authorizing performance-based regulation of electric public utilities operating in North Carolina was enacted by

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 the General Assembly and signed into law by the  
2 Governor. This Legislation, which I will refer to as  
3 House Bill 951, established an alternative ratemaking  
4 approach that involves, among other things, a  
5 multi-year rate plan. Under this new ratemaking  
6 approach, the revenue requirement for each rate year  
7 of the multi-year rate plan will build on a general  
8 rate-based revenue requirement established using a  
9 historical test year with step-ups that reflect a  
10 projected revenue requirements associated with new  
11 investments to be put into service during the course  
12 of each year of the multi-year rate plan.

13 The Legislation limits a multi-year rate  
14 plan to three years and establishes that base rates  
15 cannot change past a certain percentage in rate years  
16 2 and 3 once they are approved by the Commission.

17 On October 6th, 2022, DEP filed its  
18 application to adjust retail-based rates, as well as a  
19 request for an accounting order, along with the direct  
20 testimony and exhibits of 22 witnesses, supporting its  
21 application.

22 By its application, DEP seeks approval from  
23 the Commission in accordance with House Bill 951, to  
24 implement, for the first time, performance-based

1 regulation and a three-year rate plan. DEP's  
2 application proposes rate increases over each of the  
3 three years of its proposed plan for a total increase  
4 in base rate revenues of approximately 18 percent.  
5 Broken down by year, DEP requests an increase of 6.6  
6 percent to general base rate revenues plus an  
7 additional 3.1 percent in rate year 1, 4.3 percent in  
8 rate year 2, and 4 percent in rate year 3. DEP does  
9 propose to offset its requested increase with certain  
10 excess federal tax revenue dollars currently held by  
11 the Company.

12 DEP explains that customers should benefit  
13 from this new ratemaking approach from fewer rate  
14 cases, which would be required under the traditional  
15 ratemaking approach as the Company enters a period of  
16 time in which it plans to make significant capital  
17 investment. The Company also explains that the new  
18 ratemaking approach includes other customer  
19 protections, including an earnings sharing mechanism  
20 and performance incentive mechanisms intended to  
21 encourage the types of performance about which  
22 customers care.

23 Based on the increases proposed, DEP's  
24 application explains that a typical residential

1 customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per  
2 month will see an increase of approximately \$14.72 --  
3 \$14.72 per month in rate year 1. This amount will  
4 increase by approximately \$5.62 per month in rate year  
5 2, and \$5.21 per month in rate year 3. In the event  
6 the Commission does not approve DEP's request to use  
7 performance-based regulation and a multi-year rate  
8 plan, but instead, applies traditional ratemaking  
9 principles to DEP's request, then a typical  
10 residential customer using 1,000-kilowatt hours will  
11 see an increase of approximately \$9.89 per month in  
12 base rates until DEP is due to file its next  
13 rate case.

14 DEP states that its request to increase its  
15 rates is driven by investments made since its 2019  
16 Rate Case, including: investments in existing nuclear  
17 facilities to enhance safety, reliability, and  
18 efficiency over their extended life operations. New  
19 investments in traditional and renewable generation as  
20 well as energy storage; continued investments to  
21 maintain remaining coal-fired generation and  
22 hydroelectric generation; ongoing work to retire and  
23 close existing coal-fired generating facilities, and  
24 work to upgrade the transmission and distribution

1 systems to be more reliable, resilient, and supportive  
2 of renewable technologies.

3 On October 31st, 2022, the Commission issued  
4 an Order establishing general rate cases and  
5 suspending rates. And on December 16th, 2022, the  
6 Commission issued an Order scheduling investigation  
7 and hearings, establishing invention and testimony due  
8 dates, as well as discovery guidelines. The  
9 December 16th Order also required that DEP provide  
10 notice of its request to increase rates to its  
11 customers by mailing each of its customers notice of  
12 the rate increase and by publishing notice of the  
13 request in the newspaper.

14 On December 21, 2022, the Commission issued  
15 an Order revising the dates of the public witness  
16 hearings. Several hearings, such as the one tonight,  
17 have been scheduled at locations around the State for  
18 the purpose of receiving testimony from public  
19 witnesses addressing the proposed rate increase.

20 A hearing has been scheduled to begin on  
21 May 1st in Raleigh for the purpose of receiving  
22 testimony from the expert witnesses of the parties to  
23 the proceeding.

24 The Public Staff, which represents the Using



1 and Consuming Public, has been made a party to this  
2 case pursuant to North Carolina General Statute  
3 Section § 62-15, and the Attorney General's Office has  
4 intervened in this case as well in accordance with  
5 North Carolina General Statute Section § 62-20.

6 In addition, the following parties have  
7 petitioned to and been allowed to intervene in this  
8 proceeding: Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility  
9 Rates II; The Carolina Utility Customers Association,  
10 Incorporated; North Carolina Justice Center; The North  
11 Carolina Housing Coalition; The Southern Alliance for  
12 Clean Energy; North Carolina Sustainable Energy  
13 Association; Vote Solar; The Natural Resources Defense  
14 Council; The Sierra Club; The Commercial Group; The  
15 Kroger Company; Harris Teeter, LLC; Fayetteville  
16 Public Works Commission, The Department of Defense and  
17 all other federal executive agencies jointly.

18 All right. That brings us to tonight. We  
19 appreciate your coming out tonight and voice your  
20 views on DEP's proposed rate increase. We welcome  
21 your testimony and we'd like to hear from you.

22 In conducting this hearing, the Commission  
23 will function in a judicial capacity as we're required  
24 to do under North Carolina law. We largely follow the

1 Rule of Civil Procedure and Evidence. And because the  
2 Commission functions as a court, we cannot respond to  
3 your questions, but we are here to receive evidence  
4 from you-all in the form of your testimony.

5 In this proceeding, the Public Staff, which  
6 represents the Using and Consuming Public, will  
7 investigate and make appropriate recommendations to  
8 the Commission regarding DEP's requests. The Public  
9 Staff represents you, that is the Using and Consuming  
10 Public, and will assist you-all in providing your  
11 testimony tonight. In addition, the Public Staff will  
12 file its own expert testimony in this case, setting  
13 forth its recommendations. That testimony is due to  
14 be filed on March 27th and will be available on our  
15 website, Commissioners' website for public viewing.

16 In order to facilitate a full and fair  
17 opportunity for everyone to speak tonight, we're going  
18 to use the following procedures:

19 1) Witnesses who wish to testify must sign  
20 up with the Public Staff. The Public Staff will call  
21 each witness in the order listed on the roster.

22 2) In order to allow each person an equal  
23 amount of time speak, there will be a limit of three  
24 minutes per speaker.

1           3) To comply with the Rules of Procedure and  
2 Evidence, I will have each witness swear or affirm his  
3 or her testimony prior to providing the testimony.

4 And that means when you hear your name called, please  
5 proceed to the witness stand and then I will deliver  
6 the oath. Once you've been given the oath, you can  
7 state your name and address for the record and begin  
8 your testimony.

9           4) Please do your best to refrain from  
10 offering opinion on matters not related to issues  
11 included in the notice of hearing for this docket.  
12 Tell us how this request affects you or tell us about  
13 the quality of service you received from the Company.

14           5) Counsel for any party may ask questions  
15 of the witnesses who testify tonight. In addition,  
16 the Commission will have the opportunity to ask  
17 questions as well. This means that if you decide to  
18 provide testimony, you may be asked questions by  
19 attorneys for the parties or by the Commissioners.

20           6) Our testimony's being recorded by a court  
21 reporter tonight. So to ensure the accuracy of the  
22 record that she prepares, we ask that you not engage  
23 in unconventional modes testimony and do your best to  
24 remain quiet when you're not testifying so that she's

1 able to hear the testifying witness.

2 And as a final reminder, the Commission and  
3 attorneys for the parties are not allowed to answer  
4 your questions or respond to your questions during the  
5 hearing. However, both the Public Staff as well as  
6 DEP have representatives here tonight who will be  
7 available to talk to you-all after the hearing, if you  
8 do have questions.

9 With that, I think we're ready to begin, so  
10 I'm going to call upon counsel to identify themselves  
11 for the record. We begin with the Applicant.

12 MR. KAYLOR: Chair Mitchell, Members of the  
13 Commission, Robert Kaylor, appearing on behalf of Duke  
14 Energy Progress.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Mr. Kaylor.

16 MS. RICHARD: Good evening. Kathleen  
17 Richard, Senior Counsel for Duke Energy Progress.

18 MS. RICHARD: Good evening, Ms. Richard.

19 MS. LUHR: Good evening. Nadia Luhr with  
20 the Public Staff, on behalf of the Using and Consuming  
21 Public.

22 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Ms. Luhr.  
23 All right. It's my understanding that DEP would like  
24 to make an opening statement?

1 MR. KAYLOR: That's correct, Madam Chair.  
2 District Manager Tanya Evans will come forward and  
3 make a brief statement.

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: Come on up, Ms. Evans. You  
5 can just stand right there, is fine.

6 MS. EVANS: Right here?

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: Yeah.

8 MS. EVANS: Okay. Thank you. Good evening,  
9 Chair Mitchell and Commissioners. My name is Tanya  
10 Evans and I am Duke Energy District Manager for Person  
11 County. We appreciate you and our customers here.  
12 For those customers who have signed up to speak this  
13 evening, I want to share that at Duke Energy, we are  
14 here to listen. We have a team of company  
15 representatives in the audience this evening. If  
16 there are any customers who have questions or concerns  
17 about operations, energy efficiency, billing, or other  
18 topics, we are available to answer questions and  
19 provide information, or we will take down the  
20 customer's contact information and follow up as  
21 quickly as possible after the meeting. Thank you,  
22 Chair Mitchell.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Evans.  
24 Ms. Luhr, if you would.

1 MS. LUHR: Good evening. My name is Nadia  
2 Luhr. I am a staff attorney with the Public Staff.  
3 The Public Staff is an independent state agency that  
4 represents the Using and Consuming Public in matters  
5 before the Utilities Commission. The Public Staff has  
6 been auditing Duke Energy Progress' operations and its  
7 rate increase application. We have a team of  
8 engineers, accountants, economists, and attorneys  
9 investigating Duke's request for an increase, and  
10 reviewing their records and operations.

11 We are scheduled to file our testimony and  
12 exhibits setting out our position regarding the  
13 requested increase on March 27th. Our testimony will  
14 be available for your review on the Commission's  
15 website along with other documents related to the  
16 case.

17 The purpose of the hearing this evening is  
18 to hear from customers regarding the request of rate  
19 increase. There are sign-up sheets at the back of the  
20 room. We will call each of you who have indicated on  
21 the sign-up sheet that you wish to make a statement.  
22 When your name is called, please come to the witness  
23 stand where you will be sworn or affirmed.

24 Next, you will be asked your name, address,

1 We ask that you speak clearly so that the court  
2 reporter may make an accurate record of your  
3 statement. We appreciate each of you coming out  
4 tonight for this public hearing. If you have  
5 questions about the requested rate increase, members  
6 of the Public Staff will be glad to speak with you  
7 during a break or after tonight's hearing. Thank you.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: All right. Thank you,  
9 Ms. Luhr. With that, we shall get started. If you  
10 would, call your first witness, please.

11 MS. LUHR: Tanya Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: I've already spoken. Thank you.

13 MS. LUHR: Gordon Powell.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Powell, do you wish to  
15 swear or affirm?

16 MR. POWELL: Swear.

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay.

18 GORDON POWELL;  
19 having been duly sworn,  
20 testified as follows:

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Please state your name and  
22 address, for the record.

23 THE WITNESS: My name is Gordon Powell. My  
24 address is 299 North Ridge Circle, Roxboro, NC 27574.

1 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MR. POWELL:

2 Q Good evening, Madam Chair and distinguished  
3 Commission members. Thank you for being in  
4 Person County. I am speaking tonight in support  
5 of Duke Energy's continued presence in Person  
6 County. I'm part of a small group of citizens  
7 who have lived in Person County long enough to  
8 witness Duke's presence here grow enormously.

9 I observed the first plant  
10 construction, from land clearing to its present  
11 status today. I have in my hand here today a  
12 brochure or a program dated September the 14th,  
13 1966, and attending that meeting that day were  
14 distinguished high-ranking officials, including  
15 the governor of North Carolina at that time, a  
16 U.S. Senator, and others on hand to celebrate  
17 what was to become the largest power generating  
18 facility in the Duke system.

19 During the past six decades, Duke  
20 Energy has consistently been a gold star  
21 corporate citizen in our county by supporting  
22 local government, civic clubs, Chamber of  
23 Commerce, tourism, churches, schools, recreation,  
24 and the list goes on. Additionally, there are



1 two beautiful lakes situated in Person County  
2 providing some of the most stunning home sites in  
3 the country, as well as providing all types of  
4 water sports and recreational opportunities for  
5 the surrounding area.

6 One Duke official has said, "Duke  
7 Energy wants to be where they are wanted," and  
8 I'm here tonight to tell you in all the years  
9 made, Person County wants you here in the present  
10 as well as for the future. Person County  
11 supports replacement generation cited here in  
12 whatever form you take on that you may agree.

13 Currently, sited plans have the  
14 infrastructure in place to continue generation  
15 plus the most important element, I suppose, in my  
16 opinion and experience, well-trained employee  
17 base. During this time span, Duke Energy has  
18 been Person County's largest corporate citizen  
19 not only providing electric power for millions,  
20 but an untold number of high-quality, well-paid  
21 jobs here in Person County, at the same time  
22 becoming a huge economic asset to our county as  
23 well.

24 Over these years, Duke Energy has

1       been Person County's largest corporate citizen,  
2       not only providing electric power for millions  
3       but providing an untold, again, number of  
4       high-quality, good-paying jobs for our county.

5               Duke Energy, please, make no  
6       mistake about it. Person County wants to move  
7       into the future with you utilizing local  
8       facilities and infrastructure, to continue  
9       providing essential power generation at the  
10      current location, just as it has for the past 60  
11      years to deliver reliable and affordable electric  
12      power for all of our citizens, as well as the  
13      region. Thank you, ma'am.

14           CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Powell. Are  
15      there questions from you, from the Company?

16           MR. KAYLOR: No questions.

17           CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay. Public Staff?

18           MS. LUHR: No questions.

19           CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioners?

20                   (No response)

21           CHAIR MITCHELL: All right. Thank you very  
22      much, Mr. Powell. Next witness.

23           MS. LUHR: Samantha Bagby.

24           CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Ms. Bagby.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 SAMANTHA BAGBY;

2 having been duly sworn,

3 testified as follows:

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: State your name and  
5 address, for the record, please.

6 THE WITNESS: My name is Samantha Bagby, and  
7 I live at 495 Deer Creek Lane in Timberlake.

8 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MS. BAGBY:

9 A I am also here to represent the Roxboro area  
10 Chamber of Commerce. I am currently our  
11 Executive Director there. And I, first off, just  
12 want to thank you guys for coming into Person  
13 County today, and I hope you really enjoy your  
14 tours of our plants here. And throughout your  
15 time here, I know you came in on 501 and got to  
16 drive all throughout Person County and got to see  
17 what Person County has here to offer. And so I'm  
18 here to really -- hoping to convince you please  
19 consider us for replacement generation in the  
20 future, because without replacement generation  
21 here, you will not get to see those beautiful  
22 stores, beautiful homes, and the beautiful  
23 community that is here, because of Duke Energy in  
24 the past, and we want to be able to continue that

1 in the future. Thank you.

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Bagby.

3 Let's see if there's questions for you.

4 MR. KAYLOR: No questions.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay.

6 MS. LUHR: No questions.

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioners?

8 (No response)

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: All right. Next witness,  
10 please.

11 MS. LUHR: Allison Satterfield.

12 ALLISON SATTERFIELD;  
13 having been duly sworn,  
14 testified as follows:

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: State your name and  
16 address, for the record.

17 THE WITNESS: My name is Allison Satterfield  
18 of 2254 McGhees Mill Road in Roxboro.

19 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MS. SATTERFIELD:

20 A And I'm here tonight just to -- on behalf of an  
21 array of reasons for Duke Energy. I'm here  
22 representing one Roxboro area Chamber of Commerce  
23 as the current Chair of the Board of Directors.  
24 I thank you and echo everything that our

1 Commissioner and Executive Director just said. I  
2 really appreciate you taking the time to show up  
3 here tonight hear out our community members. I  
4 think that what you'll hear is a range of  
5 valuable information.

6 I'm also here as a Duke Energy customer, the  
7 owner of a local business in Uptown Roxboro, and the  
8 wife of a 15-year Duke Energy employee. So everything  
9 that Duke Energy is and stands for means so much to me  
10 personally and professionally. I just wanted to point  
11 that out tonight.

12 One thing that I wanted to mention, when it  
13 comes to Duke Energy, what I think of and have always  
14 thought of is the support that this organization  
15 brings to this community. I've had several leadership  
16 roles over the last few years in multiple non-profit  
17 organizations and in work with the Chamber, and  
18 have -- can serve as witness to Duke Energy always  
19 showing up for this community, so that's what I'm here  
20 to do tonight.

21 I've seen first-hand Duke Energy show up  
22 financially for Piedmont Community College, Parks and  
23 Rec., Person County Partnership for Children, Kiwanis  
24 Club, Roots and Wings. Many, many more organizations

1 have benefited financially from Duke Energy being a  
2 part of this community, and I want to see that  
3 continue.

4 Also, certainly as the wife of a dedicated  
5 employee, I share my Christmases with Duke Energy and  
6 the rest of their staff, and I'm absolutely willing to  
7 do that because I can attest to the fact that our  
8 employees here are working very, very hard, not just  
9 for paycheck, but to keep this community exactly what  
10 it is that you see today.

11 So, I appreciate you being here. I know  
12 that change is often very hard, but also as a  
13 representative of a new local business, I believe that  
14 we have lots of exciting momentum happening in this  
15 community. I want to see that continue, not just for  
16 myself but for my children and for our entire  
17 community. So, thank you for your consideration and  
18 thank you for being here tonight.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Satterfield.  
20 Questions for the witness?

21 MR. KAYLOR: No questions.

22 MS. LUHR: No questions.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioners?

24 (No response)

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: All right.

2 MS. LUHR: Phillip Allen.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Mr. Allen.

4 MR. ALLEN: Good evening.

5 PHILLIP ALLEN;

6 having been duly sworn,

7 testified as follows:

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: State your name and address  
9 for the record, please, sir.

10 THE WITNESS: My name is Phillip Allen. I  
11 live at 213 Crestwood Drive, Roxboro, North Carolina  
12 2757.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: You may proceed.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MR. ALLEN:

16 A Madam Chair, I'd like to thank you for coming.  
17 Commissioners, thank y'all for coming to Person  
18 County, thank y'all for what y'all do for the  
19 State of North Carolina. We're very proud of all  
20 that you do.

21 I've lived here in Person County  
22 for almost 70 years. And during this period,  
23 there's been no finer, more greater corporate  
24 citizen than Carolina Power and Light and Duke

1 Energy. They have built our beautiful lakes,  
2 provided thousands and thousands of jobs, and  
3 directly and indirectly provided gifts and grants  
4 in support to virtually every worthy cause over  
5 this period. Their employees volunteer and show  
6 up and serve in leadership positions in literally  
7 all of our civic clubs, our churches, our  
8 organizations. They partner with our schools and  
9 Piedmont Community College, our Chamber, our  
10 Economic Development Commission, and they are, I  
11 say this again, they are without question our  
12 greatest economic partner.

13 As Chairman of the Economic  
14 Development Commission here in Person County,  
15 whenever we need any support, advice, counsel or  
16 any information relative to economic development,  
17 we can always call on our partners with Duke  
18 Energy testimony. They do all of this in  
19 addition to that. They are the largest tax payer  
20 in Person County. That's very important.

21 So we absolutely depend on Duke  
22 for so many reasons. But at the end of the day,  
23 they do one major thing, and that is they provide  
24 reliable, dependable, predictable and affordable



1 electricity for all of us. The Duke Power plants  
2 in Person County have literally kept the lights  
3 on in North Carolina for millions and millions of  
4 people for almost 60 years. Our community wants  
5 the Duke Power plants to operate in Person County  
6 for many, many more generations to come. So let  
7 our entire community meet this challenge to  
8 secure replacement generation for our plants.

9 Our message is really very simple:  
10 Duke Energy is our greatest partner and we want  
11 you here. We need you here. And we will do  
12 everything in our power to keep Duke Power and  
13 replacement generation here for generations. So,  
14 the future economic prosperity of Person County  
15 depends on it. And in large measure, the  
16 economic prosperity for North Carolina also  
17 depends on it.

18 So in closing, I ask that you  
19 simply keep the lights on in Person County.  
20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Allen.  
22 Questions for the witness?

23 MR. KAYLOR: No questions.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay.

1 MS. LUHR: No questions.

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioners?

3 (No response)

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: You may step down. Thank  
5 you, sir.

6 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: Next witness, please.

8 MS. LUHR: Carol Carter.

9 CAROL CARTER;

10 having been duly sworn,

11 testified as follows:

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Please state your name and  
13 address, for the record.

14 THE WITNESS: My name is Carol Carter. I  
15 live at 280 Clay Long Road, Hurdle Mills, North  
16 Carolina 27541.

17 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MS. CARTER:

18 A I have to say that I -- I don't want Duke to  
19 leave. I think Duke is great here, but at the  
20 same time, I'm about to retire. I'm going to be  
21 on a fixed income and a higher rate is not what I  
22 need. I'm already pretty strapped with the  
23 amount of my electricity bill, and I would  
24 appreciate it if everyone can think about that.

1 And for the low-income people and the elderly,  
2 and for those of us who don't have as much money  
3 as some other people in the County. So thank  
4 you.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Carter.

6 Questions for the witness?

7 MR. KAYLOR: No questions.

8 MS. LUHR: No questions.

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioners? All right.  
10 Commissioner Brown-Bland. Ms. Carter, if you would  
11 come back to the microphone, please, ma'am.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Brown-Bland  
14 has a question for you.

15 THE WITNESS: Oh. I'm sorry.

16 EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND:

17 Q Ms. Carter, can you say -- would you just give us  
18 some idea of what your monthly bills have run  
19 you?

20 A Um, it's about \$200 a month.

21 Q And how many bedrooms in your house?

22 A I have a three-bedroom house.

23 Q And so you would say your bills average. That's  
24 about the average?

1 A Well, I'm on a monthly plan, so I kind of --

2 Q So you have equal pay?

3 A I have several meters, but the house -- one stays  
4 about the same, and that's about a hundred, but  
5 the other two meters that I have, it's about  
6 \$200, so...

7 Q All right.

8 A So with the amount that they gave us earlier,  
9 that number, 18 percent, would go up an  
10 additional \$36 a month for me, approximately.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN-BLAND: All right. Thank  
12 you.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you for coming out,  
15 Ms. Carter. Next witness, please.

16 MS. LUHR: Coleman McCullock.

17 COLEMAN MCCULLOCK;  
18 having been duly sworn,  
19 testified as follows:

20 CHAIR MITCHELL: Please state your name and  
21 address, for the record.

22 THE WITNESS: Good evening, folks. It's  
23 good to have you here. I guess I'm talking from a  
24 personal point of view.

1           CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCullock, if you  
2 would, just tell us your name and give us your  
3 address, please, sir.

4           THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry.

5           CHAIR MITCHELL: That's okay.

6           THE WITNESS: My name is Coleman McCullock.  
7 I live at 205 Allgood Street, Roxboro, North Carolina  
8 27573.

9 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MR. McCULLOCK:

10 A And from my personal point of view, I'm a recent,  
11 very recent -- I'm a recent widower. When my  
12 wife retired, it knocked about \$700 out of my  
13 monthly budget or our monthly budget, at that  
14 time. Well, she's deceased now, so that cut  
15 another \$2,000 roughly out of the monthly budget.  
16 The gas company just doubled my gas bill. For  
17 now, they doubled it. I'm on equal pay just like  
18 I'm on equal pay with the power company as well.  
19 But to talk about the increase, I know it's over  
20 a three-year time span. But if I'm wrong, I'd be  
21 the first one to admit it.

22                   The increase that's being asked,  
23 in my experience, and going by what the media  
24 will say, after the Company gets their raise and

1 rates or whatever is nine times out of ten, if  
2 there's a rate increase, if they ask for a rate  
3 increase, like in this instance, they're  
4 asking -- what is it, 17, 18 percent, something  
5 like that? That's a false statement.

6 Nine times out of ten, it's like  
7 if they ask for that percentage, that's really --  
8 to my understanding, that's not really what the  
9 percentage that the Company -- what is as far as  
10 Duke Progress Energy or any other company, nine  
11 times out of ten, that rate increase they ask for  
12 is not the real increase that they're asking for.  
13 They do that because they know that the  
14 Commission is not going to accept the amount that  
15 they're saying.

16 Usually, it's a lower -- I guess a  
17 lower increase or whatever, but it's the real  
18 increase that they actually want and not this  
19 like, say, 17 or 19 percent that they're asking  
20 for. They don't really want that. They'll  
21 accept less, nine times out off ten. And -- but  
22 like I said, you know, I know everything is  
23 getting expensive nowadays, but it really hurts  
24 the monthly budget for increases.

1                   So, like, with the gas company,  
2                   they sent me a letter saying they were going to  
3                   double my gas bill. I'm thinking my God, you  
4                   know, what else is going to happen. And then,  
5                   you know, all companies ask for rate increases.  
6                   And I may be wrong, but regardless, regardless of  
7                   what's said here tonight, they're going to -- I  
8                   mean, the rate increase is no doubt. They  
9                   know -- I mean, they know they're going to get  
10                  it.

11                  But I do appreciate them keeping  
12                  my lights on in my house. It's not a mansion,  
13                  but it keeps me dry. But I just want to thank  
14                  you-all for listening to what I had to say, and  
15                  thank you-all as well.

16                  CHAIR MITCHELL: All right. Thank you,  
17                  Mr. McCulloch. Are there questions for him?

18                  MR. KAYLOR: No questions.

19                  CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay.

20                  MS. LUHR: No questions.

21                  CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioners?

22                                 (No response)

23                  CHAIR MITCHELL: You may step down. Thank  
24                  you for coming out.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 MS. LUHR: Queen Greene.

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: If you would, please raise  
4 your right hand, ma'am. Place your left hand on the  
5 bible.

6 MS. GREENE: Do I swear or affirm?

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: Would you prefer to affirm?

8 MS. GREENE: Yes, I prefer to affirm.

9 QUEEN GREENE;

10 having been duly affirmed,

11 testified as follows:

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Please state your name and  
13 address, for the record.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is Queen  
15 Greene. Excuse me, I'm a little horse, so bear with  
16 me. My address is 1806 Polk Huff Road, Roxboro, North  
17 Carolina 27574.

18 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MS. GREENE:

19 A I wrote this down. Okay. So my situation is I  
20 have about 250 basically a month left to spend  
21 after taxes, room and internet, and that's if I  
22 make 15 an hour, but I have less than that if I  
23 make 11. I still have to pay lights, food, gas  
24 for the car, car insurance. And thank goodness I



1 don't have to pay for all of my son's formula,  
2 but it's still about 23 to \$25 a can.

3 My son needs 13 cans a month. A  
4 week gives me seven. I also have a mother who  
5 has breast cancer and she's on a fixed income.  
6 And I don't know if people understand what power  
7 of attorney is but they should have told me what  
8 me signing up to be her full durable power of  
9 attorney meant. That meant me taking on some  
10 expenses I didn't know I had to do.

11 So basically, I'm asking for Duke  
12 to stop the \$14 fee. What is the storm recovery  
13 fee, the storm recovery fee? There's also  
14 another fee, an energy rider fee. Sorry. I  
15 skipped a little bit. Okay. And in Person  
16 County, I am going to give just a little bit  
17 backdrop. What I've learned is that the Housing  
18 Authority only pays \$500 a month for a family of  
19 two if the child's less than three years old,  
20 with rising costs, you know. And with work  
21 first, it's only a matter of two thirty-six.

22 Person County, Durham County, and  
23 Wake County has seen an increase in request for  
24 help with paying their light bill. I've actually

1           witnessed it myself going down there.

2                       My tired is tired, and I feel like  
3           I should not have to choose between food this  
4           month and how much electricity I can use. As of  
5           right now, my seven month-old is with his  
6           Godparents. My heat/AC unit is off when the  
7           nights have actually been at 40 and below. I had  
8           the thermostat on 60 and the light bill was still  
9           over \$100. I already don't have enough internet  
10          to work from home, so I have to travel to Durham  
11          for work. I come from Durham County, from an  
12          older home, and my electricity bill was lower  
13          with my other two children who are now 18 and 22.  
14          And now, it's just me and my last child who is  
15          almost eight months old. So I'm honestly tired.

16                      The increases, I'm actually also  
17          now looking to move because I no longer want to  
18          deal with Duke. It's nice for the charity that  
19          Duke does, but we as customers pay for that,  
20          really, I feel. I can barely afford the \$14 fee.  
21          So to me, I feel like I'm speaking for the ones  
22          who are not getting more of an increase as far as  
23          the income but rather than less. But I also feel  
24          like why should I have to choose basically to be

1 cold during the winter and hot during summer. I  
2 regret moving here, so I am seriously currently  
3 looking to sell my home because I can't do it any  
4 more. And even when I call to Duke, no one can  
5 really explain to me what this \$14 fee means, a  
6 storm recovery fee means, nor does the energy  
7 rider fee. So I say no.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Greene. Let  
9 me see if there are questions for you.

10 MR. KAYLOR: No questions.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay.

12 MS. LUHR: No questions.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioners?  
14 Commissioner McKissick.

15 EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK:

16 Q Yeah. Could you restate again what your monthly  
17 utility bill is, the amount you pay for your  
18 electric service?

19 A Well, when my thermostat was on 55, 60 --

20 Q Yeah.

21 A -- it was about \$110.

22 Q About \$110?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And the size of your home, is it --

1 A It's less than where I moved from, but it's about  
2 2,300 square feet.

3 Q About 2,300 square feet?

4 A Um-um. And I really only use about half of that  
5 because like I said, I'm just there with me and  
6 my son. So me and my son have been in my room.  
7 And I'm the only one using any electricity, so I  
8 didn't understand what did I do?

9 Q So it's just you and your seven month-old son?

10 A Right now, yes, because my older children, once I  
11 moved from Durham, they -- one went to Charlotte  
12 and one went to New Hanover County to go to  
13 school, in college.

14 Q I know that Duke officials are here this evening.  
15 I would encourage you to speak with them before  
16 you leave about those fees you identified and  
17 likewise about the assistance programs that might  
18 help you.

19 A Yes. Well by the way, they only helped me with  
20 \$400.

21 Q But are you receiving help now?

22 A I got help one time of \$400.

23 Q \$400.

24 A But again, how does -- that doesn't even help me

1 if the bill keeps going up and up and up.

2 Q I understand.

3 A And that's a one-time thing. So I can't get  
4 assistance every single time, but that's only  
5 because -- I know this figure because when I  
6 first had my son, I did need a little help  
7 because I wanted to take a little bit more time  
8 off from work so I could be with my son a little  
9 bit. But then of course because everything  
10 started rising, I cut my six weeks short and went  
11 back, so I literally only took about maybe four  
12 weeks off from work.

13 Q You live in an all electric home?

14 A Yes.

15 Q I would encourage you to speak with them while  
16 they are here tonight and available to you.  
17 There may be still be some other assistance  
18 programs that could help you, and they can  
19 provide you an explanation of those fees you  
20 identified.

21 A Okay.

22 Q Thank you.

23 A Thank you.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you for coming out

1 tonight, Ms. Greene.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 MS. LUHR: And we have no more witnesses  
4 signed up to speak.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: All right. Let me check in  
6 with the audience. Is there anyone else who would  
7 like to speak to the Commission tonight? If so,  
8 please raise your hand.

9 (No response)

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: I am not seeing any  
11 volunteers, so we will come to the end of the evening.  
12 I thank you-all very much for coming out tonight, and  
13 for listening attentively, and for participating so  
14 well. So thank you very much. We'll be adjourned.  
15 Let's go off the record, please.

16 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were adjourned  
17 at 7:45 p.m.)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, TONJA VINES, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the  
proceedings in the above-captioned matter were taken  
before me, that I did report in stenographic shorthand  
the Proceedings set forth herein, and the foregoing  
pages are a true and correct transcription to the best  
of my ability.



Tonja Vines