#### **INFORMATION SHFFT**

PRESIDING: Commissioners Kemerait, McKissick, Jr., Brawley, Tucker

PLACE: Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, NC

DATE: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 TIME: 7:00 p.m. - 8:55 p.m. DOCKET NO.: E-100 Sub 190 COMPANY: Generic Electric

DESCRIPTION: In the Matter of Biennial Consolidated Carbon Plan and Integrated Resources Plans of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC,

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-110.9 and § 62-110 (c)

**VOLUME NUMBER: 1** 

#### **APPEARANCES**

See attached

#### WITNESSES

See attached

#### **EXHIBITS**

See attached

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REPORTED BY: Kim Mitchell

TRANSCRIBED BY: Kim Mitchell

PREFILED PAGES: 0

DATE FILED: April 25, 2024

TOTAL PAGES: 102

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               Buncombe County Courthouse
     PLACE:
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               Asheville, North Carolina
               Tuesday, April 9, 2024
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     DATE:
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     TIME:
               7:00 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.
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    DOCKET:
               E-100, Sub 190
               Commissioner Karen M. Kemerait
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    BEFORE:
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               Commissioner Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.
               Commissioner William M. Brawley
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               Commissioner Tommy Tucker
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                        IN THE MATTER OF:
             Biennial Consolidated Carbon Plan and
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           Integrated Resource Plans of Duke Energy
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        Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC,
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        Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-110.9 and § 62-110(c)
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                             VOLUME 1
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# NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION APPEARANCE SLIP

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## NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION PUBLIC STAFF - APPEARANCE SLIP

DATE: April 9, 2024 DOCKET #: E-100, Sub 190

PUBLIC STAFF ATTORNEYS: William E. H. Creech & Anne M. Keyworth

TO REQUEST A **CONFIDENTIAL** TRANSCRIPT, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

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COUNSEL/MEMBER(s) REQUESTING A **CONFIDENTIAL** TRANSCRIPT WHO HAS SIGNED A CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT WILL NEED TO SIGN BELOW.

/s/ William E. H. Creech /s/ Anne M. Keyworth

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### Comments Offered on Behalf of MountainTrue NC Utilities Commission Carbon Plan Hearing Asheville, NC, April 9, 2024

MountainTrue is a Western North Carolina-based nonprofit organization that champions resilient forests, clean waters, and healthy communities in the Southern Blue Ridge.

Advocating for a just, equitable and science-based carbon plan is central to MountainTrue's mission. Everyone has the right to clean and affordable energy with the assurance of equitable energy production, transmission, distribution and consumption that won't harm our health, communities and natural systems. As such, we offer these comments for the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) to consider in developing its final Carbon Plan.

In the first update to the NC Carbon Plan, Duke Energy proposes to triple the amount of expensive and dirty gas used to fuel its power plants. If approved, the company's latest Carbon Plan proposal would put ratepayers on the hook to pay for expensive, unnecessary gas plants that threaten our health and climate.

This plan to expand dirty gas puts profit over people. Duke has admitted that volatile gas prices are a significant reason for increasing energy rates, but now the company is proposing to triple (from 3 gigawatts to 9 gigawatts) the amount of gas-fired generation it will use in North Carolina. Customers are already feeling the pain of higher bills as rate increases push up consumer energy bills. On the contrary, wind and solar facilities have no fuel costs and expansion of renewable energy generation will reduce the costs to consumers. The NCUC should tell Duke to triple down on renewables instead of gas for the benefit of consumers.

Additionally, expanding gas-powered generation is unsafe. Inundating North Carolina with methane from gas plants puts the environment and human health in harm's way. Methane is a more potent greenhouse gas than CO2, speeding up climate change. A major gas leak is reported on average once every 40 hours in the US, and gas can explode. But cleaner, safer alternatives are available. While Duke's plan does add more offshore wind generation capacity, it does not make enough room for utility-scale solar with energy storage or lean into energy efficiency measures.

Duke's latest filing seeks to delay their compliance with the carbon reduction deadline of 2030 set out in HB 951 to 2035. The deadline the NC General Assembly set is achievable if the NCUC requires Duke to expand solar, storage, and energy efficiency measures. The NCUC should direct Duke to meet the 2030 deadline.

The NCUC should reject Duke's gas expansion plans and instead direct the company to follow a Carbon Plan centered on more affordable, safe, and reliable clean energy. Rather than increasing reliance on fossil fuels, this Carbon Plan should set higher goals for achieving greater energy efficiency, storage, and solar-powered generation. The NCUC has the ultimate authority to adopt the best Carbon Plan for the State of North Carolina. Therefore, MountainTrue encourages NCUC to exercise its authority to the fullest extent to achieve the goals of HB 951 and protect the people and environment of North Carolina.

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