

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 180

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

<p>In the Matter of:</p> <p>Investigation of Proposed Net Metering Policy Changes</p>	<p>⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋮</p>	<p>BRIEF OF SUNDANCE POWER SYSTEMS, INC, SOUTHERN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, INC. and YES SOLAR SOLUTIONS; COLLECTIVELY, THE NORTH CAROLINA ROOFTOP SOLAR INSTALLERS</p>
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I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the North Carolina Utilities Commission’s (“Commission”) December 7, 2022 Order, Sundance Power Systems, Inc, Southern Energy Management, Inc. and Yes Solar Solutions (collectively, the “North Carolina Rooftop Solar Installers” or “NCRSI”) submit the following Brief. NCRSI recommends that the Commission approve the Stipulation between NCRSI and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC’s and Duke Energy Progress, LLC’s (collectively “Duke”) filed on May 19, 2022 in conjunction with the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) filed on November 29, 2021.

II. BACKGROUND

On March 29, 2022 NCRSI filed its initial Comments regarding the net metering tariffs (collectively, the “NEM Tariffs”) proposed by Duke. NCRSI argued that the NEM Tariffs do not comply with the House Bill 589 requirement that the Commission shall establish nondiscriminatory net metering rates only after an investigation of the costs and benefits of customer-sited generation, and that the NEM Tariffs will damage the rooftop solar industry in North Carolina.

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Shortly thereafter, Duke and NCRSI began a dialogue with the objective of agreeing to NEM rates that could serve as an alternative to the default time-of-use (“TOU”) rate design for the NEM Tariffs proposed in Duke’s Application. Duke and NCRSI eventually agreed to a Stipulation that, among other things, recommends that the Commission approve a Bridge Rate that would be available to all residential customers who apply for NEM on or after January 1, 2023, until December 31, 2026, subject to certain early termination events and megawatt caps for each calendar year of the proposed Bridge Rate.

III. NCRSI Recommends That The Commission Approve the Stipulation

If approved, the Bridge Rate would mitigate the devaluation of solar relative to Duke’s Application, by ensuring that rooftop solar customers can opt-out of the more onerous TOU rates proposed by Duke unless a Smart Saver, or other equivalent incentive, is approved by the Commission. The Bridge Rate would be offered as a limited alternative to the time of-use tariffs proposed in the Companies’ Application. This alternative rate option would be open to existing and eligible new customers who apply for this option through December 31, 2026, subject to annual capacity caps. Customers electing to take service on the proposed Bridge Rate may do so for up to 15 years, subject to certain limitations outlined in the Stipulation. The proposed Bridge Rate includes monthly netting at the applicable avoided cost rate and includes the same monthly minimum bill and non-bypassable charge that are included within the NEM tariffs proposed in the Companies’ Application.¹ However, the Bridge Rate does not include a grid access fee or mandatory time-of-use rates.

¹ The following customers would be exempted from the MMB under the proposed Bridge Rate: Homes specifically built for low-income and vulnerable customers (e.g. Habitat for Humanity), LIHEAP recipients, and CIP recipients.

From NCRSI's perspective this is an improvement to the proposed NEM rates that should allow rooftop solar developers to serve North Carolinians that want to invest in solar through 2026. In the longer term, NCRSI urges the Commission to work with all stakeholders to develop NEM rates that fully reflect the value that customer-owned solar provides to Duke's generation, transmission and distribution systems and the value of solar to North Carolina's goal of reducing electric power sector greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030 and attaining carbon neutrality by 2050.

NCRSI recommends that the Commission approve the Stipulation in its entirety.

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**COUNSEL FOR NORTH CAROLINA ROOFTOP
SOLAR INSTALLERS**

DATED this 16th day of December, 2022.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the Brief of the North Carolina Rooftop Solar Installers' in Docket No. E-100, SUB 180 has been served by electronic mail, hand delivery, or by depositing a copy in the United States Mail, 1st Class Postage Prepaid, properly addressed to parties of record.

This, the 16th day of December, 2022

/s/ Kurt J. Boehm
Kurt J. Boehm, Esq.

**COUNSEL FOR NORTH CAROLINA ROOFTOP
SOLAR INSTALLERS**

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