

August 12, 2020

Attn: Kim Campbell, Chief Clerk  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4325 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

Re: Docket E-2 Sub 1257: Proposed 5 MW Solar Facility in Buncombe County

Dear Ms. Campbell,

We are writing in strong support of the application by Duke Energy Progress (DEP) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct the 5 MW Woodfin Solar Facility on a retired landfill in Buncombe County, NC. We are a group of 30 clean-energy advocates comprising the Blue Horizons Project Technology Working Group. Formed in 2016 as part of the Energy Innovation Task Force, we have partnered with Buncombe County, the City of Asheville, and DEP to take actions toward a cleaner energy future for Buncombe County. One notable achievement has been delaying the need for a 100 MW natural gas peaking power plant that was slated for 2023 to serve this region. This plant is now off of DEP's 15-year planning horizon.

The proposed 5 MW Woodfin Solar Facility would greatly benefit our community, and would save an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 tons of carbon emissions annually, depending on the mix of fuels utilized by DEP. Buncombe County and the City of Asheville have both adopted resolutions to achieve 100 percent renewable energy for the community by 2042, and locally-installed solar is integral to accomplishing that goal. Moreover, the proposed installation on a closed landfill is an excellent example of creative land use. Given our mountainous topography here in Buncombe County, siting a solar facility on flat and already-cleared land makes eminent sense.

We urge you to approve DEP's application and help us advance clean energy for Buncombe County.

Sincerely,

The Blue Horizons Project Technology Working Group

Blue Horizons Project  
PO Box 17026  
Asheville, NC 28816

(828) 254-1995  
info@bluehorizonsproject.com