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VIA Electronic Filing

Ms. Antonia Dunston, Interim Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

Re: *Petition for Approval of Revisions to Generator Interconnection Standards
Docket No. E-100, Sub 101*

Dear Ms. Dunston:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced proceeding are the *Joint Reply Comments of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Very truly yours,

/s/E. Brett Breitschwerdt

EBB:kjg

Enclosure

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 101

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of) JOINT REPLY COMMENTS OF DUKE
Petition for Approval of Revisions to) ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC AND
Generator Interconnection Standards) DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC

Pursuant to the North Carolina Utilities Commission’s (the “Commission” or “NCUC”) September 9, 2021 *Order Requesting Reply Comments* (“Order”) and subsequent order granting extension of time, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (“DEC”) and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (“DEP” and together with DEC, the “Companies”) provide the following reply comments (“Reply Comments”) in response to the comments filed in this proceeding by the Carolinas Clean Energy Business Association (“CCEBA”) and the Public Staff—North Carolina Utilities Comments (“Public Staff”) on the Companies’ August 17, 2021 *Petition for Approval of Limited Modifications to the NCIP to Expand Transitional Cluster Study Eligibility* (“Petition”).

As addressed in the Companies’ Petition, the proposed limited modifications to Transitional Cluster eligibility will enable recent Interconnection Customers in the queue today that have obtained a certificate of public convenience and necessity (“CPCN”) from the Commission to participate in Transitional Cluster and also creates a pathway for the Companies to potentially align a new Competitive Procurement of Renewable Energy (“CPRE”) Program Tranche 3 Competitive Resource Solicitation with Transitional Cluster. The Public Staff does not object to the Companies’ proposal and CCEBA “generally

supports” the Companies’ Petition subject to four recommendations regarding its preferences to align a CPRE Tranche 3 with the Transitional Cluster study.

CCEBA’s recommendations are substantively CPRE issues and do not require Commission action at this time and in this proceeding. As addressed in the Companies’ 2021 CPRE Program Plan, the Companies are working diligently to develop creative solutions to potentially integrate Tranche 3 into the Transitional Cluster study to achieve a CPRE procurement in 2021. However, the Companies do not support modifications that would deviate from the regulatory approvals received to implement the queue reform transition or that would prioritize the interests of CPRE stakeholders at the expense of ensuring the fair, efficient, and expedient administration of the Transitional Cluster study process. Stated differently, the Companies’ priority is ensuring the efficient administration of the Commission’s directive to implement queue reform through the Transitional Serial and Transitional Cluster study process and the Companies are only willing to support those CPRE-related modifications or actions that will not impede or disrupt queue reform, particularly given the multi-jurisdictional aspect of the interconnection process (i.e., impacting Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“PSCSC”) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) interconnection processes).

The Companies and the CPRE Program Independent Administrator (“IA”) are engaging with CCEBA, Public Staff, and other stakeholders on these issues and will update the Commission after receiving market participant feedback regarding whether CPRE Tranche 3 can be integrated with Transitional Cluster or whether Tranche 3 will be integrated with the initial Definitive Interconnection System Impact Study (“DISIS”) Cluster 1 commencing in 2022. The Companies renew their request for Commission

approval of the limited modifications to Transitional Cluster eligibility presented in the Petition.

BACKGROUND

On October 15, 2020, the Commission issued its *Order Approving Queue Reform* thereby approving the Companies' proposed transition of the North Carolina Interconnection Procedures ("NCIP") from the serial interconnection study process to a proposed cluster study Definitive Interconnection Study Process.¹ The *Order Approving Queue Reform* recognized that both the PSCSC and the FERC must also approve queue reform in order for cluster studies to be implemented in the Carolinas. The Commission advised that it would issue an order subsequent to the approval of the queue reform proposal in the other jurisdictions establishing the effective date of the new revised NCIP. As explained in the Petition and other filings, the Companies have now obtained approval from the PSCSC and FERC to implement complementary queue reform procedures.

On August 17, 2021, the Companies filed the Petition, which requests approval of two limited modifications to NCIP § 1.10.2.1(d). As explained in the Petition, the proposed modifications would allow an Interconnection Customer that is in the current interconnection queue as of the Effective Date of the queue reform revisions of the NCIP to be eligible to enter the Section 1.10.2 Transitional Cluster study process if the Interconnection Customer has been issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") or is offering to sell its output through a new Resource Solicitation Process prior to the close of the 60-day Transitional Cluster enrollment window. The latter change is designed to enable the Companies to align a potential CPRE Program Tranche 3

¹ Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as defined in Attachment 1 to the North Carolina Interconnection Procedures.

Competitive Resource Solicitation with the Transitional Cluster. The Petition does not change or seek to expand the Transitional Study process to potential new Interconnection Customers not in the queue as of the effective date of queue reform.

On August 19, 2021, the Commission approved the Companies' motion to implement queue reform, establishing an effective date of August 20, 2021, for the revised NCIP. Pursuant to the now effective NCIP, the Companies provided written notice to all current Interconnection Customers on September 1, 2021, initiating the 60-day eligibility window for existing Interconnection Customers to elect (and demonstrate readiness and meet other requirements) to enter the Transitional Study process in NCIP Section 1.10. On that same day, the Companies issued similar written notices to all FERC and South Carolina Interconnection Customers under the FERC Large Generator Interconnection Procedures ("LGIP") and South Carolina Generator Interconnection Procedures ("SC GIP"), respectively.² In total, the Companies are coordinating with approximately 260 NC, SC, and FERC-jurisdictional Interconnection Customers totaling 19,000 MW regarding potentially entering the Transitional Study process.

On September 1, 2021, the Companies filed their 2021 CPRE Program Plan as required by NCUC Rule R8-71(g) in Docket No. E-100, Sub 165 ("2021 CPRE Program Plan"). The 2021 CPRE Program Plan identified that the Companies project a total of 300 MW needing to be procured to meet the remaining CPRE Program procurement requirement. The 2021 CPRE Program Plan also identified that implementation of queue

² See FERC Open Access Transmission Tariff Attachment J Large Generator Interconnection Procedures ("LGIP"), Section 7, accessible at http://www.ferc.duke-energy.com/Tariffs/Joint_OATT.pdf; see *Order Approving Modifications to South Carolina Generator Interconnection Procedures to Implement Queue Reform and Appendix Duke CS*, Order No. 2020-439 SCPS Docket No. 2019-326-E (June 18, 2021), Appendix Duke CS, Section 3.

reform introduces an additional layer of complexity regarding the timing of Tranche 3, due to the need to integrate a competitive procurement solicitation into future planned cluster studies, which have established timelines under the NCIP, SC GIP, and FERC LGIP.³ In addressing the Companies' plans for integrating a future Tranche 3 with the now-effective queue reform revisions to the NCIP, the 2021 CPRE Program Plan further explained that:

The Companies had previously assumed that Tranche 3 would need to align with the first DISIS (occurring in 2022) due to the timing of the Transitional Cluster Study — inclusion in the 2022 DISIS would not require expediting the Tranche 3 RFP process and would also avoid the complexities of the initial Transitional Cluster Study (which is expected to have more speculative projects due to the lower entry requirements as compared with future DISIS Clusters). However, due to the delay in FERC's approval of Queue Reform and in light of feedback reflected in intervenor comments in Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1159 and E-7, Sub 1156, as well as informal feedback from Market Participants, the Companies are considering creative solutions to integrate Tranche 3 into the Transitional Cluster Study to allow for an earlier procurement.

Eligibility for the Transitional Cluster Study is based on interconnection queue status as of August 20, 2021, the effective date of the revised North Carolina Interconnection Procedures. The initial Phase 1 Study (which is a power flow study that provides a network upgrade cost estimate required as part of Step 2 of the CPRE evaluation process) of the Transitional Cluster Study is scheduled to commence on or around December 1, 2021. If Tranche 3 is integrated into the Transitional Cluster Study, the RFP would be targeted to open for bids in early 4Q 2021, which would allow for selection of Tranche 3 winners in 2Q 2022. The alternative to integrating Tranche 3 into the Transitional Cluster Study is to defer Tranche 3 to the 2022 DISIS Cluster, which is scheduled to formally begin July 1, 2022, with the initial Phase 1 Study to commence on or around October 1, 2022. If Tranche 3 is integrated into the 2022 DISIS Cluster, the RFP would open for bids in Q3 2022, which would result in the selection of Tranche 3 winners in early 2023. In summary, if Tranche 3 is not integrated into the Transitional Cluster Study, then Tranche 3 will be pushed to late 2022/early 2023 in order to align with the 2022 DISIS cluster.

The timeline required to integrate Tranche 3 with the Transitional Cluster Study is aggressive but appears feasible subject to guidance from the Independent Administrator ("IA") and stakeholder feedback. However, integrating Tranche 3 with the Transitional Cluster Study would require that

³ 2021 CPRE Program, at 58 of 63.

Tranche 3 bidders have an assigned queue number prior to August 20, 2021. There are a significant number of projects currently eligible to elect into the Transition Cluster Study that would potentially consider participating in Tranche 3 if it is integrated with the Transitional Study—based on the Companies’ preliminary analysis, it appears that there are over 100 state jurisdictional renewable, transmission-connected interconnection requests adding up to more than 5,500 MW.

Integrating Tranche 3 into the Transitional Cluster Study will only be possible if no major RFP structural changes are required (*i.e.*, if Tranche 3 is substantially similar to Tranche 2, thereby allowing for a more efficient process). At this time, the Companies are not aware of the need for any such major structural changes. Integrating Tranche 3 into the Transitional Cluster Study will also require substantial stakeholder consensus, including consensus regarding the acceptability of compressing certain timelines (*e.g.*, shortening the pre-solicitation comment period under Rule R8-71(f)). With the IA’s assistance, the Companies plan to engage stakeholders concerning these issues and will follow up with notification to the Commission concerning the timing for Tranche 3. If a determination is made to integrate Tranche 3 into the Transitional Cluster Study, the Companies will inform the Commission regarding the timing of such integration and request any waivers needed to achieve such integration.⁴

On September 8, 2021, the Public Staff and CCEBA filed comments on the Companies’ Petition. The Public Staff’s comments explain that the Public Staff has gathered information about the proposed modifications through conference calls and a data request to the Companies and, after obtaining a better understanding of the modification’s impact, do not object to the Petition. CCEBA stated in its comments that it “generally supports” the Petition, but proposes four additional modifications to Transitional Cluster eligibility and to the structure of a potential CPRE Tranche 3 solicitation:

- (1) Transitional Cluster Eligibility should be modified to allow a statement of commitment to enter Tranche 3 to suffice to show readiness for entry into the Transitional Cluster, rather than a completed application;
- (2) Should the Companies proceed with integrating Tranche 3 into the Transitional Cluster, then Transitional Cluster eligibility should be open not only “based on interconnection queue status as of August 20,

⁴ 2021 CPRE Program Plan, at 59-60 of 63.

2021” but also to those projects that submit a statement of intention to participate in CPRE Tranche 3 and an Interconnection Request within a grace period after the decision to combine Tranche 3 and the Transition Cluster is approved;

- (3) Tranche 3 CPRE award decisions should be made concurrently with the Transitional Cluster Phase 1 reports, so that applicants will know that they will have offtake before entering into the financial guarantees required in Phase 2;
- (4) Contracts should be awarded under Tranche 3 before the end of Phase 2 so that Power Purchase Agreements can be executed before moving past Phase 2.⁵

On September 17, the Companies and the CPRE Program Independent Administrator held an open pre-solicitation stakeholder meeting to discuss the feasibility, challenges and potential timing of integrating CPRE Tranche 3 with the Transitional Cluster process. CCEBA and the Public Staff participated along with other interested market participants.

REPLY COMMENTS

I. Reply to CCEBA Comments

The Companies appreciate CCEBA’s support of the modifications requested in the Petition. With respect to CCEBA’s four proposed modifications, the Companies believe recommendation (1) is reasonable but does not require modifications to the NCIP or change the relief requested in the Petition, (2) is unreasonable and would be fundamentally inconsistent with the now-effective queue reform transition process, and (3) & (4) are CPRE solicitation issues that are being considered by the Companies, the IA and stakeholders in the development and potential issuance of CPRE Tranche 3 that could be

⁵ CCEBA Comments, at 2-3.

aligned with the Transitional Cluster. Accordingly, these issues do not need to be decided by the Commission to rule on the Petition.

CCEBA Recommendation (1)

The Companies' 2021 CPRE Program Plan highlighted the aggressive schedule required to implement a Tranche 3 solicitation aligned with the Transitional Cluster. CCEBA's first proposal to allow a statement of commitment to enter CPRE Tranche 3 to be used to demonstrate Transitional Cluster eligibility/readiness is reasonable and would allow additional time for a CPRE Tranche 3 solicitation pre-issuance process to be completed under Rule R8-71(f), assuming the Companies, the IA, the Public Staff and market participants determine that the significant complexity and limitations of aligning a CPRE Tranche 3 with Transitional Cluster is in the public interest. As explained during the recent September 17 CPRE stakeholder meeting, the Companies are developing a notice of intent to bid form that would allow Interconnection Customers committing to bid into CPRE Tranche 3 to provide "reasonable evidence" of their plans to offer to sell power through the proposed CPRE Tranche 3 Competitive Resource Solicitation. Importantly, no changes to the requested NCIP modifications presented in Attachment 1 to the Companies' Petition are needed to implement CCEBA's first proposal.

CCEBA Recommendation (2)

CCEBA next proposes a conceptual modification to allow a "grace period" for new Interconnection Customers to submit new Interconnection Requests into the queue and be studied in the Transitional Cluster in order to bid into CPRE Tranche 3. This proposal is unreasonable and should be rejected as fundamentally inconsistent with now-effective queue reform transition processes approved for *existing* North Carolina, South Carolina,

and FERC-jurisdictional Interconnection Customers. Queue reform in all three jurisdictions has been designed to establish a consistent “bright-line” effective date—August 20, 2021—to delineate which Interconnection Customers are either (i) exempt from the Transitional study procedures (*i.e.*, projects that had already executed an Interconnection Agreement as of the effective date), (ii) subject to and eligible for the expedited Transitional study procedures designed to transition to the Definitive Interconnection Study Process (*i.e.*, projects in the queue that had not yet executed an Interconnection Agreement as of the effective date); or (iii) provides that future Interconnection Customers not yet in the queue as of the effective date would not be eligible for the Transitional Study process and, instead, would be eligible to enter the DISIS Cluster 1 in 2022.⁶ CCEBA essentially asks the Commission to retroactively modify the NCIP effective date to allow new state-jurisdictional Interconnection Customers to enter the queue now that the transition process is underway for all 260 existing NC, SC, and FERC-jurisdictional Interconnection Customers.

To support its proposal, CCEBA points out that in CPRE Tranches 1 and 2, all projects in the queue as of the bid deadline were eligible to participate in CPRE.⁷ While true, the applicable interconnection process was fundamentally different for Tranches 1 and 2. In those prior solicitations, the Companies were administering state-jurisdictional grouping studies based upon a designated CPRE Queue Number within the serial generator interconnection study process.⁸ This framework was designed to group interconnection requests for study within the serial queue while assuring CPRE non-participants’ queue

⁶ See NCIP 1.1.3; 1.10; SC GIP Appendix Duke CS, §1.1; 3; LGIP §§ 2.1, 7.

⁷ CCEBA Comments, at 4.

⁸ See *Order Approving Interim Modifications to North Carolina Connection Procedures for Tranche 1 of CPRE RFP*, Docket No. E-100, Sub 101 (Oct. 5, 2021).

position priority was not adversely affected. Now, as explained in the 2021 CPRE Program Plan, queue reform has been approved and the Companies are studying all NC, SC, and FERC-jurisdictional Interconnection Customers under an integrated Cluster Study framework. For Transitional Cluster, the NCIP, SC GIP, and LGIP all require an Interconnection Customer to have a queue number as of the effective date (termed cluster study transition notice date in the LGIP) to participate in Transitional Cluster.⁹ The queue priority rights and reasonable expectations of all transition-eligible Interconnection Customers, including FERC and South Carolina Interconnection Customers, need to be maintained. CCEBA's grace period proposal to allow new Interconnection Customers to join the transition would risk shifting costs to CPRE non-participant projects, create the strong potential for allegations of discriminatory treatment and related challenges at FERC and the PSCSC, and could increase the complexity of the Transitional Cluster leading to potential delays that would likely also lead to cascading delays of DISIS in 2022.

CCEBA asserts that limiting Tranche 3 to projects in the queue as of the queue reform effective date would be an "undesirable and unfair consequence of syncing CPRE Tranche 3 with Transitional Cluster study." The Companies have transparently identified this consideration both in the CPRE Program Plan as well as in the recent September 17 stakeholder meeting.¹⁰ Specifically, the Companies have acknowledged the fact that one of the drawbacks of aligning Tranche 3 with Transitional Cluster study is that there is no further opportunity to accept new interconnection requests into the process and communicated that if accepting new interconnection requests is the priority from a market participant perspective, aligning Tranche 3 with DISIS is the appropriate route. In fact,

⁹ See NCIP § 1.1.3, SC GIP Appendix Duke CS § 3, FERC LGIP § 7.

¹⁰ CCEBA Comments, at 4.

aligning Tranche 3 with DISIS Cluster 1 in 2022 would both reduce the complexity of the generator interconnection study process and enable all projects planning to participate in Tranche 3 to enter the queue during the 2022 DISIS Request Window. The Companies have been consistent and transparent that they would support shifting Tranche 3 to DISIS Cluster 1 if CCEBA and other stakeholders have concerns that integrating Tranche 3 with Transitional Cluster would be unreasonable and unduly limit participation in Tranche 3.

At the same time, as identified in the 2021 CPRE Program Plan, there are over 100 state jurisdictional renewable, transmission-connected Interconnection Requests adding up to more than 5,500 MW that are eligible for the transitional process, suggesting that sufficient depth of market exists to anticipate a robust response to a 300 MW procurement if Tranche 3 is aligned with Transitional Cluster. In sum, CCEBA's proposal to allow a "grace period" for new Interconnection Customers to enter the Transitional Cluster after the effective date and queue reform transition under the NCIP, SC GIP, and LGIP has commenced is inconsistent with the transition process approved by each of the regulatory jurisdictions approving queue reform and should be rejected.

CCEBA Recommendations (3) & (4)

CCEBA's third and fourth proposals are not actually proposing to further modify the NCIP Transitional Cluster process; instead, CCEBA seeks to modify the process for evaluating and selecting proposals in a potential Tranche 3 if the bid evaluation and selection process is integrated with the Transitional Cluster. While CCEBA does not mention Rule R8-71(f)(3), this regulation governs the process that the IA and the Companies' T&D Sub-Team must follow for evaluating and selecting proposals. The Companies recognize CCEBA's interest in increased certainty for bidders and its desire to

avoid potentially significant Withdrawal Penalty financial exposure in Transitional Cluster, which arises upon entering Phase 2 (NCIP § 1.10.2.4).¹¹ The Companies are sympathetic to these considerations, but reiterate that Transitional Cluster was not designed to facilitate a CPRE Tranche 3 Competitive Resource Solicitation and reemphasize the importance of assuring all projects entering Phase 2 of Transitional Cluster are committed to proceeding to interconnection if their assigned Upgrade and Interconnection Facilities costs do not materially increase, whether or not the project is selected in CPRE.¹² Otherwise, there will be significant risk of restudy due to projects dropping out of the Transitional Cluster at the end of Phase 2. The Companies plan to continue to work with the IA and Public Staff to engage CCEBA members and other market participants on whether a workable evaluation and selection process can be achieved that facilitates robust bidder participation in a potential Tranche 3 while not impairing the Transitional Cluster for all Interconnection Customers.

II. Brief Update on Tranche 3 Development and Stakeholder Engagement

The Companies held a pre-solicitation stakeholder meeting on September 17, 2021, to discuss potential Tranche 3 alignment with Transitional Cluster. On September 20, 2021, the Companies commenced the CPRE Tranche 3 pre-solicitation process described

¹¹ Withdrawal penalties under Transitional Cluster, if assigned under Section 6.3.5, are materially higher than under future DISIS Clusters once an Interconnection Customer commits to enter Phase 2 study. *Compare* NCIP § 1.10.2.4 (establishing the § 1.10.2.3 supplemental deposit as the Phase 2 Withdrawal Penalty) and § 6.3.5.1 (establishing the Withdrawal Penalty for ready projects in Phase 2 as equal to the higher of the Interconnection Customer's study deposit or allocated study costs). For a 75 MW project required to provide an \$800,000 supplemental deposit as security to enter Phase 2 of the Transitional Cluster, this security is approximately five times greater than the \$125,000 Withdrawal Penalty risk for a project that enters DISIS Phase 2. In both Transitional Cluster and DISIS, however, an Interconnection Customer is not required to withdraw if not selected in CPRE and also would not be subject to a Withdrawal Penalty if its allocated costs increase by more than 25% between the Phase 1 study results and the Phase 2 study results.

¹² See NCIP § 6.3.5 (exempting an Interconnection Customer from a Withdrawal Penalty if its assigned costs increase more than 25% between study phases).

in NCUC Rule R8-71(f), by providing to the IA for posting draft CPRE RFP Solicitation guidelines and documents, as well as issuing the draft CPRE Power Purchase Agreement (“PPA”) for review and comment. The Companies and the IA have expressly requested feedback not only on the RFP and PPA documents, but also on the overall market participant preference regarding aligning Tranche 3 with the Transitional Cluster study or the DISIS.

At this time, the Companies and IA are awaiting formal feedback from stakeholders regarding alignment of CPRE Tranche 3 with the Transitional Cluster study process. Although no decision has been made as to the timing of CPRE Tranche 3, the Companies have proposed the following schedule for stakeholder consideration that would align CPRE Tranche 3 with the Transitional Cluster study process:

Date	Action Item
September 1, 2021	Transitional Cluster eligibility window opens
September 17, 2021	CPRE Tranche 3 stakeholder meeting
September 20, 2021	Draft CPRE Tranche 3 Solicitation guidelines and documents, as well as PPA provided to IA for posting on IA website ¹³
September 20, 2021 to October 20, 2021	Continued stakeholder engagement and additional CPRE Tranche 3 stakeholder meetings held as needed
October 20, 2021	CPRE Tranche 3 PPA filed with the Commission ¹⁴
October 29, 2021	IA report on CPRE Tranche 3 Solicitation guidelines and documents, as well as PPA, provided to the Companies detailing stakeholders’ and the IA’s comments and recommendations on such documents ¹⁵
October 31, 2021	60-day Transitional Cluster eligibility period concludes Interconnection Customers planning to bid into CPRE Tranche 3 must submit a Notice of Intent Form for Transitional Cluster readiness demonstration by this same date (assumes Petition is granted)
November 1, 2021	Transitional Cluster customer engagement period opens

¹³ Rule R8-71(f)(1)(ii).

¹⁴ Rule R8-71(f)(1)(iii).

¹⁵ Rule R8-71(f)(1)(v).

November 15, 2021	Duke Energy to provide final CPRE Solicitation guidelines and documents, including the final PPA, to the IA for posting on the IA website by the bid issuance date ¹⁶
November 19, 2021	CPRE Tranche 3 RFP solicitation issuance date (bid window opens) ¹⁷
November 30, 2021	CPRE Tranche 3 RFP bid window closes
December 1, 2021	Transitional Cluster Phase 1 and CPRE Step 1 evaluation commence

After further engagement with the IA and stakeholders, the Companies are planning to make a final decision regarding alignment of CPRE Tranche 3 with the Transitional Cluster study process on or before October 1, 2021. The Companies will then update the Commission on their plans for CPRE Tranche 3. As addressed in the 2021 CPRE Program Plan, the Companies also plan to update the Commission on the final amount of Transition MW within five business days of the end of the CPRE Procurement Period (November 1, 2021).

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing, the Companies request that the Commission approve the modifications to NCIP § 1.10.2.1(d) as requested in Attachment 1 to the Petition, and grant any other relief that the Commission deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted, this the 22nd day of September, 2021.

/s/E. Brett Breitschwerdt

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¹⁶ Rule R8-71(f)(1)(vi).

¹⁷ Subject to further discussions with the IA and feedback from stakeholders, issuance of the Tranche 3 RFP on November 19, 2021, would allow the Companies to meet all RFP pre-issuance requirements under Rule R8-7(f)(1) such that waivers from the Commission's rules would not be required.

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*Counsel to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Joint Reply Comments of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC, as filed in Docket No. E-100, Sub 101, was served via electronic delivery or mailed, first-class, postage prepaid, upon all parties of record.

This, the 22nd day of September, 2021.

/s/E. Brett Breitschwerdt

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