

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1275

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC,) ORDER EXCUSING WITNESSES,
for Approval of CPRE Cost Recovery Rider) ACCEPTING TESTIMONY,
Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-110.8 and) CANCELING EXPERT WITNESS
Commission Rule R8-71) HEARING, REQUIRING PROPOSED
) ORDERS, AND REQUIRING
) ANSWERS TO COMMISSION
) QUESTIONS

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On July 7, 2021, the Commission issued a Scheduling Order in the above-captioned docket that, among other things, scheduled an expert witness hearing to be held on September 21, 2021.

On May 24, 2021, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), and the Public Staff (Movants) filed a motion joint motion requesting that the Commission excuse all expert witnesses from testifying at the September 21, 2021 expert witness hearing and accept the expert witnesses' prefiled testimony, exhibits, and affidavits into the record. Movants stated that they have consulted with all parties to this docket, that all parties have agreed to waive cross-examination of all witnesses and do not object to the introduction of their prefiled testimony, exhibits, and affidavits into evidence and made part of the record in this matter.

Based on Movants' motion and the record, the Commission finds good cause to excuse all witnesses from testifying at the expert witness hearing and to receive the witnesses' prefiled testimony, exhibits, and affidavits into the record.

Further, the Commission finds good cause to cancel the expert witness hearing and to require that the parties file proposed orders, or a joint proposed order, on or before October 21, 2021, and briefs by the same date, if they desire to file briefs.

Finally, witness Cathcart notes on page 11, line 23, through page 12, line 1, of his direct testimony that beyond the excess IA fees DEP is seeking authorization to recover in this proceeding, DEP has received additional invoices from the IA totaling approximately \$57,000. Witness Cathcart also states on page 12, lines 16-18, that "DEP notes that the \$57 thousand in additional IA expenses referenced above includes approximately \$30 thousand in expenses related to Tranche 1." Notwithstanding the Commission's order excusing all witnesses, the Commission requests that DEP answer questions regarding the additional excess IA fees discussed in witness Cathcart's

testimony. Accordingly, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to issue this Order requiring DEP to file verified responses to the questions set forth in the Appendix hereto on or before Friday, October 15, 2021.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 17th day of September, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shonta Dunston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

QUESTIONS

1. Provide an itemization of the \$57,000 additional IA expenses.
2. Explain Duke's process for reviewing the IA's invoices for reasonableness and prudence.
3. Describe the methods that Duke traditionally uses with contractors in order to contain costs.
4. What cost containment measures has Duke employed with the IA?