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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF VERONICA I.
WILLIAMS**

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2 A. My name is Veronica I. Williams, and my business address is 550 South Tryon
3 Street, Charlotte, North Carolina.

4 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION WITH DUKE ENERGY AND**
5 **DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES.**

6 A. In my capacity as Rates and Regulatory Strategy Manager, I am responsible
7 for providing regulatory support related to retail and wholesale rates, providing
8 guidance on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard
9 (“REPS”) compliance and cost recovery for Duke Energy Progress, LLC
10 (“Duke Energy Progress,” “DEP,” or the “Company”) and Duke Energy
11 Carolinas, LLC (“Duke Energy Carolinas” or “DEC”), and preparing and filing
12 testimony and exhibits in annual DEP and DEC REPS rider proceedings.

13 **Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL**
14 **BACKGROUND, BUSINESS BACKGROUND AND PROFESSIONAL**
15 **AFFILIATIONS.**

16 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from the University of
17 North Carolina at Charlotte. I am a certified public accountant licensed in the
18 state of North Carolina. I began my career with Duke Power Company (now
19 known as Duke Energy Carolinas) as an internal auditor and subsequently
20 worked in various departments in the finance organization. I joined the Rates
21 Department in 2001.

22 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE NORTH**
23 **CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION?**

1 A. Yes. I most recently provided testimony in Docket No. E-7, Sub 1283 regarding
2 Duke Energy Carolinas' 2022 REPS compliance report and application for
3 approval of its REPS cost recovery rider, and in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1293
4 regarding Duke Energy Progress' 2021 REPS compliance report and
5 application for approval of its REPS cost recovery rider.

6 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

7 A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe the calculation of and present the
8 support for the REPS rider proposed by Duke Energy Progress under N.C. Gen.
9 Stat. ("G.S.") § 62-133.8 and to present the information and data required by
10 Commission Rule R8-67 as set forth in Williams Exhibit Nos. 1 through 4. The
11 test period used in supplying this information and data is the twelve months
12 beginning on April 1, 2022 and ending on March 31, 2023 ("Test Period" or
13 "EMF Period"), and the billing period for the REPS rider requested in the
14 Company's application is the twelve months beginning on December 1, 2023
15 and ending on November 30, 2024 ("Billing Period").

16 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE EXHIBITS TO YOUR TESTIMONY.**

17 A. Williams Confidential Exhibit No. 1 ("Williams Exhibit No. 1") identifies the
18 total incremental REPS compliance costs for which the Company seeks
19 recovery from Duke Energy Progress North Carolina Retail ("NC Retail")
20 customers. Williams Exhibit No. 2 shows the allocation of the total REPS
21 compliance costs, identified in Williams Exhibit No. 1, to the Company's NC
22 Retail customer classes for the Test Period. Williams Exhibit No. 3 shows the
23 allocation of the total expected REPS compliance costs, identified on Williams

1 Exhibit No. 1, to the Company's NC Retail customer classes for the Billing
2 Period. Williams Exhibit No. 4 shows the total REPS rider amounts proposed,
3 including the REPS Experience Modification Factor ("EMF"), by customer
4 class, compared to the cost cap for each customer class. Finally, Williams
5 Exhibit No. 5 is a worksheet detailing the Company's energy efficiency ("EE")
6 certificate ("EEC") inventory balance as of December 31, 2022.

7 **Q. WERE THESE EXHIBITS PREPARED BY YOU OR AT YOUR**
8 **DIRECTION AND UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION?**

9 A. Yes.

10 **Q. WHAT COSTS ARE INCLUDED IN DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS'**
11 **PROPOSED REPS RIDER?**

12 A. The proposed REPS rider intends to recover Duke Energy Progress'
13 incremental costs of compliance with the renewable energy requirements
14 pursuant to G.S. § 62-133.8. The costs incurred by the Company to comply
15 with its REPS compliance requirements are described comprehensively in the
16 testimony of Company witness Kimberly A. Presson, and detailed in Presson
17 Confidential Exhibit Nos. 2 and 3, filed in this docket. The costs incurred
18 during the Test Period are presented in this filing to demonstrate their
19 reasonableness and prudence as provided in North Carolina Utilities
20 Commission ("Commission") Rule R8-67(e).

21 The rider includes the REPS EMF component to recover the difference
22 between the compliance costs incurred and revenues realized during the Test

1 Period. The proposed rider also includes a component to recover the costs
2 expected to be incurred for the Billing Period.

3 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE METHODOLOGY DUKE ENERGY**
4 **PROGRESS USED TO CALCULATE THE INCREMENTAL COSTS OF**
5 **COMPLIANCE WITH THE REPS REQUIREMENTS.**

6 A. Company witness Presson describes the costs Duke Energy Progress incurred
7 during the Test Period and the costs it projects to incur during the Billing Period
8 to comply with its REPS requirements. North Carolina General Statute § 62-
9 133.8(h)(1) provides that “incremental costs” means “all reasonable and
10 prudent costs incurred by an electric power supplier” to comply with the REPS
11 requirements “that are in excess of the electric power supplier’s avoided costs
12 other than those costs recovered pursuant to G.S. § 62-133.9.”

13 For purchased power agreements with renewable energy facilities, Duke
14 Energy Progress subtracted its avoided cost, as determined pursuant to Rule R8-
15 67(a)(2), from the total cost associated with each renewable energy purchase to
16 arrive at the incremental cost related to the renewable energy purchase during
17 the period in question. For biogas purchases used to produce renewable energy
18 at the Company’s generating stations, the incremental costs incurred for the
19 Test Period and estimated for the Billing Period are calculated by subtracting
20 the applicable avoided costs (as determined pursuant to Rule R8-67(a)(2)) from
21 the total biogas costs associated with the MWhs generated.

22 Consistent with Rule R8-67(e)(2), which provides that the cost of an
23 unbundled renewable energy certificate (“REC”) “is an incremental cost and

1 has no avoided cost component,” the total costs for REC purchases incurred
2 during the Test Period, and forecast for the Billing Period, are included as
3 incremental costs.

4 As described in detail by Company witness Presson in her direct
5 testimony and Exhibit No. 3 filed in this docket, the REPS EMF and Billing
6 Period components of the proposed REPS rider also include compliance-related
7 labor and non-labor incremental administration costs and research costs,
8 incurred during the EMF Period and estimated for the Billing Period,
9 respectively. As further detailed in witness Presson’s testimony, amounts equal
10 to an annual amortization of Solar Rebate Program costs incurred and expected
11 to be incurred pursuant to G.S. § 62-155(f) , as well as an annual amortization of
12 costs expected to be incurred for the Solar + Storage residential pilot program,
13 applicable to the Test Period and the Billing Period are included for recovery in the
14 proposed REPS rider.

15 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS ALLOCATES**
16 **INCREMENTAL REPS COSTS AMONG CUSTOMER CLASSES FOR**
17 **REPS AND REPS EMF RIDER PURPOSES.**

18 A. Incremental costs assigned to Duke Energy Progress’ NC Retail customers are
19 separated into two categories: costs related to solar, poultry, and swine waste
20 compliance requirements, research and other incremental administration, and
21 Solar Rebate and Solar + Storage programs (“Set-Aside and Other Incremental
22 Costs”); and costs related to the General Requirement¹ (“General Incremental

¹ The Company generally refers to the “General Requirement” as its overall REPS requirement, set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.8(b), net of the three set-asides.

1 Costs"). This separation is based on the percentages of Set-Aside and Other
2 Incremental Costs, and General Incremental Costs, calculated on Williams
3 Exhibit No. 1.

4 Set-Aside and Other Incremental Costs are allocated among customer
5 classes based on per-account cost caps. General Incremental Costs are allocated
6 among customer classes in a manner that gives credit for EE RECs (for which
7 there are no General Incremental Costs) according to the relative energy
8 reduction contributed by each customer class. As a result, General Incremental
9 Costs are allocated among customer classes based on each class' pro-rata share
10 of requirements for non-EE general RECs. The calculations for allocating
11 General Incremental Costs were most recently updated in the Company's 2021
12 annual REPS proceeding, and accepted by the Commission in its November 18,
13 2021 *Order Approving REPS and REPS EMF Riders and 2020 REPS*
14 *Compliance Report* in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1276. The Company notes that any
15 deviation from allocating costs according to the statutory per-account cost cap
16 ratios creates the potential for the resulting charges computed for one or more
17 classes to exceed the per-account cost cap(s). If that occurs, the Company
18 would continue to reallocate the costs in excess of the cap for the affected
19 customer class to the other customer classes to the extent required to produce
20 charges for all classes that do not exceed the respective caps.

21 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS**
22 **CALCULATED THE PROSPECTIVE PORTION OF THE REPS RIDER**
23 **THAT THE COMPANY PROPOSES FOR THE BILLING PERIOD.**

1 A. Using the allocation methods described above, and as shown on Williams
2 Exhibit No. 3, the Set-Aside and Other Incremental Costs and the General
3 Incremental Costs are calculated by customer class for the Company's NC
4 Retail customers. The Set-Aside and Other Incremental Costs and General
5 Incremental Costs are summed for the Billing Period by customer class to arrive
6 at a total REPS cost to be collected from the Company's NC Retail customers.
7 On Williams Exhibit No. 4, the cost allocated to each customer class is then
8 divided by the total projected number of Duke Energy Progress NC Retail
9 accounts within each customer class to arrive at the total annual cost to be
10 recovered from each account over the Billing Period. The monthly NC Retail
11 REPS rider for each customer class is one-twelfth of the total annual cost.

12 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE CALCULATION OF THE PROPOSED REPS**
13 **EMF.**

14 A. Using the allocation methods described above, and as shown on Williams
15 Exhibit No. 2, the Set-Aside and Other Incremental Costs and the General
16 Incremental Costs are calculated by customer class for the Company's NC
17 Retail customers. The Set-Aside and Other Incremental Costs and General
18 Incremental Costs are summed for the Test Period by customer class to show
19 the total REPS cost assigned to the Company's NC Retail customers. The
20 actual NC Retail revenues realized during the Test Period by customer class are
21 then subtracted from the total REPS costs by customer class to arrive at the
22 EMF for each class. On Williams Exhibit No. 4, the total EMF over/under
23 collection to be recovered from each customer class is adjusted to include any

1 credits to customers not considered a refund of amounts advanced by
2 customers, and then divided by the total projected number of Duke Energy
3 Progress NC Retail accounts within each customer class to arrive at the total
4 EMF to be recovered from each account over the Billing Period. The monthly
5 EMF for each customer class is one-twelfth of the total EMF.

6 **Q. DOES DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS DEFINE A “CUSTOMER” FOR**
7 **PURPOSES OF REPS BILLING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
8 **COMMISSION’S ORDER ISSUED NOVEMBER 12, 2009 IN DOCKET**
9 **NO. E-2, SUB 948?**

10 A. Yes. Consistent with the Commission’s order issued November 12, 2009 in
11 Docket No. E-2, Sub 948, for purposes of REPS billing, a customer is defined
12 as all accounts (metered and unmetered) serving the same customer of the same
13 revenue classification located on the same or contiguous properties. If a
14 customer has accounts that serve in an auxiliary role to a main account on the
15 same premises, no REPS charge applies to the auxiliary accounts, regardless of
16 their revenue classification. Upon written notification from the customer,
17 accounts meeting these criteria are coded in the billing system to allow the
18 customer to receive only one monthly REPS charge for all identified accounts.

19 **Q. DOES THE COMPANY EXPECT THE REPS CHARGE TO EACH**
20 **CUSTOMER ACCOUNT FOR THE BILLING PERIOD TO BE WITHIN**
21 **THE ANNUAL COST CAP DEFINED IN N.C. GEN. STAT. § 62-133.8?**

22 A. Yes. The annual total of the monthly REPS and REPS EMF charges proposed
23 by the Company for each customer class are shown on Williams Exhibit No.

4. For purposes of comparing the annual charges for REPS compliance costs to the per-account caps defined in G.S. § 62-133.8(h)(4), the exhibit also presents annual charges calculated to exclude costs associated with the Solar Rebate Program and Solar + Storage residential pilot program. This calculation demonstrates that REPS compliance costs to be collected from customers are within the per-account cost caps.

Q. HOW DOES DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS PROPOSE TO COLLECT THE REPS CHARGES FROM EACH CUSTOMER CLASS?

A. The Company proposes a fixed monthly charge be added to the bill for each class of customer.

Q. WHAT IS THE MONTHLY REPS CHARGE PROPOSED BY THE COMPANY FOR EACH CUSTOMER CLASS?

A. The Company proposes the following combined REPS and REPS EMF charges to be effective December 1, 2023.

Customer class	Per month – excluding regulatory fee	Per month – including regulatory fee	Annual – including regulatory fee	Annual per account cost cap
Residential	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.29	\$ 15.48	\$ 27.00
General	\$ 6.94	\$ 6.95	\$ 83.40	\$ 150.00
Industrial	\$ 46.42	\$ 46.48	\$ 557.76	\$ 1,000.00

Q. WHAT IS THE CHANGE IN THE MONTHLY REPS CHARGE PROPOSED BY THE COMPANY FOR EACH CUSTOMER CLASS?

A. The following tables show the proposed monthly REPS rider charges, and a comparison to the monthly REPS rider charges currently in effect – with and without the regulatory fee applied.

1 *Excluding regulatory fee*

Customer class	Proposed			Current			Change		
	EMF	Rider	Total	EMF	Rider	Total	EMF	Rider	Total
Residential	\$(0.07)	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.29	\$ 0.16	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.55	\$(0.23)	\$(0.03)	\$(0.26)
General	\$(0.62)	\$ 7.56	\$ 6.94	\$ 0.55	\$ 7.86	\$ 8.41	\$(1.17)	\$(0.30)	\$(1.47)
Industrial	\$(4.65)	\$51.07	\$46.42	\$ 2.83	\$54.51	\$57.34	\$(7.48)	\$(3.44)	\$(10.92)

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3 *Including regulatory fee:*

Customer class	Proposed			Current			Change		
	EMF	Rider	Total	EMF	Rider	Total	EMF	Rider	Total
Residential	\$(0.07)	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.29	\$ 0.16	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.55	\$(0.23)	\$(0.03)	\$(0.26)
General	\$(0.62)	\$ 7.57	\$ 6.95	\$ 0.55	\$ 7.87	\$ 8.42	\$(1.17)	\$(0.30)	\$(1.47)
Industrial	\$(4.66)	\$51.14	\$46.48	\$ 2.83	\$54.59	\$57.42	\$(7.49)	\$(3.45)	\$(10.94)

4

5 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE EEC INVENTORY DETAILS PRESENTED**
6 **IN WILLIAMS EXHIBIT NO. 5.**

7 A. Williams Exhibit No. 5 shows a reconciliation of the Company's EEC inventory
8 balance available for REPS compliance as of December 31, 2022 as well as
9 references to the evaluation, measurement and verification ("EM&V") reports
10 the results of which are incorporated into current EEC balances. The Company
11 annually determines the level of EECs generated and available for REPS
12 compliance, and this update includes the results of any periodic EM&V
13 performed to-date, adjustments identified during the Company's ongoing
14 analysis of energy efficiency program effectiveness, as well as any other
15 corrections. The updated cumulative level of EECs generated to date is
16 compared to the number of EECs previously reported for compliance, less any
17 EECs used for compliance, to determine the EECs to be added to inventory for
18 the most recent calendar year. Williams Exhibit No. 5 shows the calculation
19 for EECs added to inventory for 2022, including details of the adjustments

1 incorporated therein. Consistent with the Commission's January 17, 2017
2 *Order Approving REPS and REPS EMF Rider and REPS Compliance Report*
3 in the Duke Energy Progress REPS Docket No. E-2, Sub 1109, DEP continues
4 to limit its ongoing recognition of EE savings initiated in a particular EE
5 program year to the life of the measure or program as established in DEP's
6 energy efficiency rider proceedings held pursuant to G.S. § 62-133.9.

7 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

8 **A.** Yes.