

1 PLACE: Via Videoconference
 2 DATE: Tuesday, April 23, 2024
 3 TIME: 6:34 p.m. - 7:44 p.m.
 4 DOCKET: E-100, Sub 190
 5 BEFORE: Chair Charlotte A. Mitchell
 6 Kimberly W. Duffley
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11

12 IN THE MATTER OF:

13 Biennial Consolidated Carbon Plan
 14 and Integrated Resource Plans of Duke Energy
 15 Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC,
 16 Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 63-110.9 and § 62-110(c)
 17

18 VOLUME 3

19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

A P P E A R A N C E S:
FOR DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC, AND DUKE ENERGY
PROGRESS, LLC:
Ladawn Toon, Esq.
Duke Energy Corporation
410 South Wilmington Street, NCRH 20
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

FOR THE USING AND CONSUMING PUBLIC:
James Bernier, Esq.
Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

E X A M I N A T I O N S

PAGE

CHELSEA LYONS

Direct Statement.....14

JUDITH MATTOX

Direct Statement.....19

LISA DIETZ

Direct Statement.....22

BETTY MATTESON

Direct Statement.....26

ELLEN VAN VELSOR

Direct Statement.....30

ALISON KUBICKO

Direct Statement.....33

BETH CARMICHAEL

Direct Statement.....37

JACOB VAN KRETSCHMAR

Direct Statement.....41

SUZANNA WATKINS

Direct Statement.....44

CATHY DENHAM

Direct Statement.....48

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

E X A M I N A T I O N S Cont'd.:

PAGE

MATTHEW MAYERS

Direct Statement.....50

JIM BRAME

Direct Statement.....54

BETH MCKEE-HUGER

Direct Statement.....59

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening. Let's come
3 to order and go on the record, please. I'm Charlotte
4 Mitchell, Chair of the North Carolina Utilities
5 Commission. Joining me tonight is Commissioner
6 Kimberly Duffley.

7 I now call for Hearing Docket Number E-100,
8 Sub 190, which is the Biennial Consolidated Carbon
9 Plan and Integrated Resource Plans of Duke Energy
10 Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC, held
11 pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 62-110.9
12 and § 62-110.1(c).

13 Pursuant to the State Government Ethics Act,
14 I remind members of the Commission of our
15 responsibility to avoid conflicts of interest, and
16 inquire if any Commissioner has a known conflict of
17 interest with regard to matter before us this evening?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: The record will reflect
20 that no conflict has been identified, so we will
21 proceed.

22 North Carolina General Statute § 62-110.9,
23 which I'll refer to as the Carbon Plan Statute,
24 directs the Commission to take all reasonable steps to

1 achieve a 70 percent reduction in carbon dioxide
2 emitted by electric generating facilities in this
3 state owned or operated by Duke Energy Carolinas and
4 Duke Energy Progress from 2005 levels by the year 2030
5 and to carbon neutrality by the year 2050, subject to
6 certain discretionary limitations. In accordance with
7 the Carbon Plan Statute, the Commission issued an
8 Order adopting initial Carbon Plan and providing
9 direction for future planning on December 30th, 2022
10 in Docket Number E-100, Sub 179. I'll refer to that
11 Order as the additional Carbon Plan.

12 The Carbon Plan Statute directs the
13 Commission to review the Plan every two years after
14 the adoption of the Initial Carbon Plan. The Initial
15 Carbon Plan provided for the consolidation of the
16 Carbon Plan and Integrated Resource Plan processes and
17 required Duke to file its first proposed Biennial
18 CPIRP by no later than September 1st, 2023.

19 On March 15, 2023, the Commission opened
20 this docket for the 2023 CPIRP proceeding.

21 On August 17, 2023, Duke filed a verified
22 petition seeking the Commission's approval of its
23 proposed 2023 CPIRP.

24 On September 21 -- on September 1 -- I'm

1 sorry -- 2023, Duke prefiled direct testimony and
2 exhibits of witnesses in support of its verified
3 petition and proposed 2023 CPIRP.

4 On September 21, the Commission issued an
5 Order in this docket scheduling a Technical Conference
6 to be held on October 12, for the purpose of receiving
7 an oral presentation from Duke on its proposed 2023
8 CPIRP. That Technical Conference was held as
9 scheduled on October 12, 2023.

10 On November 30, 2023, Duke made a filing,
11 accompanied by supplemental expert witness testimony,
12 for the purpose of updating the Commission and all
13 parties in this docket on substantial material changes
14 and the Company's load forecast since its preparation
15 of the -- since its initial preparation of the CPIRP.

16 On December 18, 2023, by filing, Duke
17 recommended that it was necessary to perform limited
18 supplemental modeling and to submit additional
19 portfolio analysis and supporting testimony in this
20 proceeding based on its updated 2023 load -- fall load
21 forecast.

22 Following the receipt and consideration of
23 comments from interested parties regarding Duke's
24 intent to file supplemental materials, on January 17,

1 2024, the Commission issued an Order scheduling public
2 hearings, establishing interventions, and testimony
3 due dates, and discovery guidelines, requiring public
4 notice, and providing direction regarding Duke's
5 supplemental modeling.

6 The January 17, procedural Order permitted
7 Duke to file supplemental modeling, additional
8 portfolio analysis, and supplemental testimony. It
9 set forth discovery guidelines, and scheduled five
10 Public Hearings across the State, including one to be
11 held remotely, scheduled the Technical Conference on
12 the intervenor's analysis of the CPIRP, required Duke
13 to provide public notice of the hearings to its
14 customers, and extended the intervention deadline, the
15 testimony prefiling deadlines, and the expert witness
16 hearing date.

17 The Public Staff, which represents the Using
18 and Consuming Public, has been made a party to this
19 proceeding in accordance with North Carolina General
20 Statute § 62-15(d) and the Attorney General's Office
21 has been allowed to intervene in this proceeding on
22 behalf of the Using and Consuming Public in accordance
23 with North Carolina General Statute § 62-20 and on
24 behalf of the State and its citizens in accordance

1 with North Carolina § 114-2, Sub 8.

2 In addition to the Public Staff and the
3 Attorney General, the following parties have
4 petitioned to, and been allowed to, intervene in this
5 proceeding: Appalachian Voices; Avangrid Renewables;
6 Carolina Clean Energy Business Association; Clean
7 Energy Buyers Association; Carolina Industrial Group
8 for Fair Utility Rates II and III; Carolina Utility
9 Customers Association, Inc.; Electricities of North
10 Carolina, Inc.; North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power
11 Agency, and North Carolina Municipal Power Agency
12 Number 1; the Environmental Defense Fund; Fayetteville
13 Public Works Commission; Google; NCWARN; North
14 Carolina Electric Membership Corporation; North
15 Carolina Sustainable Energy Association; Southern
16 Alliance for Clean Energy, the Sierra Club and the
17 Natural Resources Defense Council; Totalenergies; and
18 Walmart.

19 That brings us to tonight. We're here
20 tonight to hear from you, the public, regarding the
21 contents of Duke's 2023 CPIRP. In order to facilitate
22 a full and fair opportunity for all speakers to
23 participant tonight, we're going to use the following
24 procedures: First, in conducting this hearing, the

1 Commission functions in a judicial capacity, as we're
2 required to under North Carolina Law. We largely
3 follow the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure and
4 the Rules of Evidence. Because the Commission
5 functions as a Court, we cannot respond to your
6 questions. Rather we're here to receive evidence from
7 you in the form of your testimony. In addition, for
8 these reasons, if you choose to testify tonight,
9 you'll be asked to affirm to the truthfulness of your
10 testimony before giving it; second, Public witnesses
11 will appear by audio connection only. Commissioners
12 and attorneys will be appearing by video and audio
13 connection. Any public witness that wishes to view a
14 live video of the proceeding may access it on a
15 computer by way of Youtube, which is linked to the
16 Commission's home page.

17 However, be sure to mute your computer when
18 you're called to testify to avoid feedback. This
19 hearing is being transcribed by our court reporter,
20 and it's critical that we limit interference with her
21 ability to hear me, and to hear those of you who are
22 going to testify tonight; third, in order to allow
23 each person an equal amount of time, there will be a
24 limit of three minutes for each witness to speak;

1 fourth, public witnesses will be called on to testify
2 in the order that you-all have called in. When it's
3 your turn to speak, the Webex Administrator will send
4 you a request to unmute your line. You will hear the
5 message, "You are being asked to unmute yourself. To
6 unmute, press star six." It's important that you
7 listen for this message. Once you unmute yourself,
8 please state your name to signify that you are
9 unmuted. At that time, I will ask you to provide an
10 affirmation as to the truthfulness of your testimony.

11 Once you provided the affirmation, the
12 attorney for the Public Staff will ask you a series of
13 questions, and then you may begin your testimony. To
14 ensure that this hearing runs as efficiently as
15 possible, please pay close attention during the course
16 of the hearing, and be ready to respond as soon as you
17 hear the message directing you to unmute your line.

18 Counsel for any party may ask questions of
19 the witnesses tonight. In addition, Commissioners may
20 have the opportunity to ask you questions as well.
21 This means that if you choose to provide testimony,
22 you may be asked questions by the attorneys or by
23 Commissioner Duffley, or by me. However, as a
24 reminder, the Commission and the attorneys for the

1 parties are not allowed to respond to your questions
2 during the course of this proceeding.

3 With that, we are ready to begin. I will
4 call upon counsel now to announce their appearances
5 for purposes of the record. We'll begin with Duke.

6 MS. TOON: Good evening, and apologies for
7 the technical issues that delayed this important
8 matter. My name is Ladawn Toon, and I'm Associate
9 General Counsel here on behalf of the Companies.
10 Thank you to the Commission for this opportunity.
11 Thank you to our Court Reporter for this evening, and
12 certainly thank you to our customers. We look forward
13 to hearing your comments and your perspectives on the
14 Carbon Plan. Thank you and, again, apologies.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Ms. Toon.
16 Mr. Freeman.

17 MR. FREEMAN: Good evening. My name is Will
18 Freeman. I am the Staff Attorney at the Public Staff
19 on behalf of the Using and Consuming Public.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: With that, counsel, any
22 preliminary matters before we get started?

23 MS. TOON: None from the Company.

24 MR. FREEMAN: None the Public Staff.

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may go ahead
2 and unmute the first witness, please.

3 THE WITNESS: Hi. I'm unmuted, and my name
4 is Chelsea Lyons.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Ms. Lyons.

6 CHELSEA LYONS;
7 having been duly sworn,
8 testified as follows:

9 COMMISSIONER DUFFLEY: Mr. Freeman, take it
10 away.

11 MR. FREEMAN: Ms. Lyons, if you could please
12 state your name and spell your name for the Court
13 Reporter, and then give your address.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, absolutely. So my name
15 is Chelsea Lyons. It is spelled, C-H-E-L-S-E-A. Last
16 name, L-Y-O-N-S. And I live at 621 Honeysuckle Road,
17 in Madison, North Carolina.

18 MR. FREEMAN: And if you could tell us who
19 your electric service provider is.

20 THE WITNESS: Duke Energy.

21 MR. FREEMAN: And if you would please give
22 your statement to the Commission and the attorneys
23 present.

24 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

1 DIRECT STATEMENT BY CHELSEA LYONS:

2 So first I'd like to start off by saying
3 good evening. I want to thank you all for listening
4 to our stories today. Like I said before, my name is
5 Chelsea Lyons. I'm a mother, a wife, and I serve as a
6 North Carolina field organizer for Moms Clean Air
7 Force, a nonprofit organization comprised of over
8 1.5 million moms, dads, and caregivers dedicated to
9 fighting against air pollution and climate change for
10 the health of our kids.

11 In North Carolina, I serve over 75,600
12 members, and I'm here today to fight alongside those
13 members at Moms Clean Air Force in opposition to Duke
14 Energy revised Carbon Plan. I'm deeply concerned
15 about Duke Energy's plan to continue with methane gas
16 production for power plants rather than to move
17 forward with more clean energy initiative. Clean
18 energy initiative, such as solar and wind power
19 produce less waste, less carbon emissions, and produce
20 less health impacts to surrounding communities.

21 I, myself, live less than 20 minutes from
22 Belews Creek Power Station; a coal-fired power plant
23 that has been a pollutant into our air and waterways
24 since they began operating in 1974. This plant has

1 exceeded state groundwater standards for several heavy
2 metals, such as mercury, chromium, barium, selenium,
3 and arsenic. In a study conducted by the
4 Environmental Protection Agency, people with well
5 water contaminated by arsenic, the main polluter
6 driving coal ash, have a one in fifty chance of
7 getting cancer.

8 In an additional study by Physicians for
9 Social Responsibility, an overconsumption of selenium
10 and chromium can cause illnesses, such as intestinal
11 ulcers, anemia, stomach cancer, neurological effects
12 such as impaired vision, paralysis, and even death.

13 Mercury, on the other hand, can harm human
14 health in a variety of ways. It's especially
15 dangerous for developing babies and children's brains.
16 When pregnant women eat contaminated fish, mercury can
17 cross the placenta and impact children's ability to
18 walk, talk, read, and learn. It can also cause
19 behavioral issues. And mercury is also linked to
20 cardiovascular problems, including increased risk of
21 heart attack.

22 I am concerned for my child, and all the
23 other residents living in, and near -- around any of
24 these stations, due to the negligence. Many power

1 plants can be found in low income, black/brown
2 communities and indigenous communities, which causes a
3 major environmental justice concern. This power
4 station in particular has repeatedly contaminated
5 Belews Lake, Little Belews Creek, and the Dan River.

6 In a Harvard study, researchers found that
7 burning natural gas, biomass, and wood, will produce
8 more negative health impacts than the ones I just
9 suggested.

10 The Carbon Plan intends to build more gas
11 plants throughout North Carolina because it will
12 financially benefit Duke Energy, rather than set their
13 focus on cleaner alternatives such as solar and wind
14 farms. This is a terrifying scenario for the citizens
15 of North Carolina, and we go must demand change. As a
16 mother, I want a clean and healthy environment for my
17 child, as well as all the children living in North
18 Carolina; that is why I'm here today, where both
19 things are concerned.

20 In recent alarming 108-page EPA study,
21 titled "Climate Change in Children's Health and
22 Wellbeing," it discusses the impacts climate change
23 has on our children's physical and mental health, and
24 it emphasizes the importance of considering our kids

1 when discussing matters such as this. Children's
2 developing brains and lungs should not have to
3 withstand this amount of pollution, let alone we have
4 the tools for clean energy operation.

5 I am asking the NCUC to consider our
6 children when making decisions regarding Duke Energy's
7 Carbon Plans. We are asking for more clean energy
8 initiatives to be implemented across North Carolina
9 that will allow us to reach the goal of 70 percent
10 reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and 100 percent
11 reduction by 2050.

12 I want to thank you again for listening my
13 story and I hope to see a better Carbon Plan in the
14 future. Thank you.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Lyons. Let
16 me see if there are questions for you from counsel for
17 the Public Staff, or the Company.

18 MS. TOON: No questions.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: If there are no questions,
20 shake your head. Okay. Commissioner Duffley,
21 questions from you?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Lyons, for
24 your testimony tonight. We appreciate your time.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may unmute
3 the next witness.

4 THE WITNESS: Hello. I'm Judy Mattox, and
5 I'm unmuted.

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Ms. Mattox.

7 JUDITH MATTOX;

8 having been affirmed,

9 testified as follows:

10 THE WITNESS: Can you hear me adequately?

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: We can hear you, ma'am.

12 Mr. Freeman, you may take it away.

13 MR. FREEMAN: Ms. Mattox, if you would
14 please spell your name and give your address and tell
15 us your electric service provider.

16 THE WITNESS: Yes. I am Judith Mattox.
17 J-U-D-I-T-H. Mattox, M-A-T-T-O-X. Address is 15
18 Morning Star Drive, Leicester, North Carolina.
19 Leicester is L-E-I-C-E-S-T-E-R, and my provider is
20 Duke Energy Progress.

21 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you, Ms. Mattox. And
22 just for everyone on this call, I should have told you
23 that, as the attorney for the Public Staff, we
24 represent the entire Using and Consuming Public, and

1 we have a team of engineers, accountants, economists,
2 and attorneys who have analyzed the Carbon Plan and
3 Integrated Resource Plan that Duke has and that our
4 testimony will be filed on May 28, 2024, and that your
5 testimony, today, is being made part of the record
6 that the Public Staff can use when preparing its
7 testimony. So I know everyone on this call
8 appreciates you and thanks you.

9 If we could, then, Ms. Mattox, with my
10 preamble, if you could, please, give your statement
11 for the people on this call.

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 DIRECT STATEMENT BY JUDITH MATTOX:

14 Thank you for accepting my statement.

15 I am very, respectfully, concerned about the
16 plans Duke Energy has submitted. In the past, Duke
17 has said gas prices were a strong reason for
18 increasing energy rates, but, yet, now they are asking
19 to raise gas usage to triple from three gigabytes to
20 nine gigabytes. North Carolina regulations allows
21 Duke to charge customers to build plants,
22 infrastructure, which makes it profitable for them to
23 request such buildings but, then, they can turn around
24 and charge customers for the gas costs that are

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 required. Whereas wind and solar do not have fuel
2 costs. These gas plants are not cost-effective for in
3 the future, they will be outdated and inefficient.
4 But we, the consumers, will still be paying for them.

5 Gas plants emit methane, which is a much
6 more potent greenhouse gas than CO2, this will raise
7 the rate of climate change. Gas leaks are reported on
8 an average of one every 40 hours in the United States
9 and are explosive. Investing in a clean energy
10 economy will help North Carolina be competitive into
11 the future with opportunities for business.

12 House Bill 951 set a deadline, as you know,
13 of 2030 requiring, as you know, the 70 percent carbon
14 reduction that Duke is seeking to delay to 2035. This
15 is unacceptable. The 2030 goal is achievable with
16 expansion of solar, storage, and energy efficiency.
17 Duke admitted acknowledging in its plans,
18 recommendations from a report that they Commissioned
19 from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory which
20 found that Duke could most economically meet the
21 carbon reduction target by tripling the proposed solar
22 on the grid by 2030.

23 Thank you for your time and attention.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Mattox. Let

1 me see if there are questions for you.

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley,
4 questions from you?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms. Mattox, thank you very
7 much for your testimony tonight. We appreciate your
8 time.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may unmute
11 the next witness.

12 THE WITNESS: Hello. This is Lisa Dietz,
13 can you hear me?

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Ms. Dietz,
15 yes, we can hear you.

16 LISA DIETZ;
17 having been affirmed,
18 testified as follows:

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman, you may take
20 it away.

21 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you, Ms. Dietz. If you
22 could, please, spell your name, give your address, and
23 then tell us who your electric service provider is.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes. Again, my name Lisa

1 Dietz. L-I-S-A. The last name is D, as in David,
2 I-E-T-Z. My address is 18632 River Crossing
3 Boulevard, and that's in Davidson, North Carolina.
4 And --

5 MR. FREEMAN: And who's your --

6 THE WITNESS: Duke Energy is my -- Duke
7 Energy.

8 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could
9 please make your statement.

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 DIRECT STATEMENT BY LISA DIETZ:

12 Thank you and good evening, esteemed
13 Commissioners. Again, my name is Lisa Dietz. I'm
14 proud to call Davidson, North Carolina home for the
15 past nine years along side my family. First and
16 foremost, I really want to extend my sincerest
17 appreciation for the opportunity to address you
18 tonight, and I want to thank the Commissioners for all
19 their hard work on this topic. I know you-all spend a
20 lot of time and energy on this, and I'm very, very
21 grateful.

22 Now, concerning Duke Energy's current
23 proposal for the Carbon Plan, I urge you to consider
24 my perspective as a North Carolinian as someone who

1 knows a bit about technology. I have a master's
2 degree in chemical engineering. As also as a mom who
3 cares about her family's future.

4 I have observed climate impacts and climate
5 change just in the short time I've lived in North
6 Carolina. And the reality is, is climate change is
7 here now and we need to act now. I can tell you, as a
8 mom, when I think about the future I am worried.
9 Climate change impacts are only going to accelerate,
10 and there are real solutions out there to give our
11 kids that healthier, safer future. And I feel like
12 it's past time for our officials to prioritize
13 climate.

14 So I have to say, I was thrilled when I
15 learned about House Bill 951. But, that being said,
16 I'm not thrilled with Duke's Plan to date. The Plan
17 that Duke Energy is proposing involves pushing back
18 the 2030 timelines, which is meant to be a last resort
19 in case of unforeseen obstacles. This should not be
20 the main Plan for the State of North Carolina, and the
21 Commission should not allow that to happen. Again,
22 Again, it's an amazing opportunity we have right now
23 to protect North Carolina and our kids and our future
24 generations. I really feel strongly that we can have

1 safe and clean energy. So I urge you to implement a
2 plan that prioritizes renewable energy sources and
3 battery storage.

4 I urge you to implement a Plan that does not
5 rely on old dirty polluting fossil fuel power
6 generation. Renewables are now the cheapest way to
7 generate electricity and renewables are absolutely the
8 least-cost pathway for achieving the goals set fourth
9 by House Bill 951.

10 I recognize that new fossil fuel power
11 generation is likely what's in the best interest for
12 Duke and it's shareholders, and I feel like we can see
13 that come through in the assumptions made in the Plan.
14 I understand that Duke has added an arbitrary 20
15 percent cost bump for renewables but, yet, at the same
16 time, Duke's Plan is overly optimistic for gas and
17 nuclear generation in terms of cost, timelines, and
18 future fuel availability. I have to say, I don't envy
19 you and your job. This is surely not easy trying to
20 find the balance between the financial interest of
21 Duke Energy and the overall public interest. I don't
22 think it's the best business decision for North
23 Carolina to move forward with Duke's proposal.

24 So I urge you, please, reject Duke's

1 proposal. Duke's proposal is not in the best interest
2 of North Carolina, and North Carolina deserves better.

3 Thanks again for your time.

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Dietz. Let
5 me see if there are questions for you from counsel for
6 either of the parties.

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: No questioners.
9 Commissioner Duffley, questions from you?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms. Dietz, there are not
12 questions for you tonight. Thank you very much for
13 your testimony, and we appreciate your time.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may unmute
16 the next witness.

17 Good evening, Ms. Matteson.

18 BETTY MATTESON;
19 having been affirmed,
20 testified as follows:

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman, you may take
22 it away.

23 MR. FREEMAN: Ms. Matteson, thank you for
24 attending. If you could please spell your name, give

1 your address and then tell us who your electric
2 service provider is, please.

3 THE WITNESS: Betty Matteson. B-E-T-T-Y.
4 M-A-T-T-E-S-O-N. My address is 5108 Fortunes Ridge
5 Drive, in Durham, North Carolina. And my energy
6 provider is Duke Energy.

7 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you, Ms. Matteson. If
8 you could please give us your statement.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

10 DIRECT STATEMENT BY BETTY MATTESON:

11 Good evening, and thank you for giving me
12 the chance to speak to you. As I said, my name is
13 Betty Matteson, and I'm a native of North Carolina.
14 Born and raised in Wilmington and I've been a resident
15 of Durham for more than 50 years. I'm retired from a
16 healthcare career. More importantly, I'm a parent and
17 a grandparent and I am deeply concerned for the health
18 and safety of my family. I'm frightened by the
19 potential negative effects of North Carolina's
20 continued reliance of fossil fuels. I'm deeply
21 concerned about how this will impact the health and
22 safety of my family. And in my career in cardiac
23 rehabilitation, I witnessed the impacts of
24 cardiovascular disease here in central North Carolina.

1 I'm worried that degradation of air quality, due to
2 reliance on fossil fuels, will negatively effect my
3 health and the health of my husband, children, and
4 their grandchildren.

5 Research has indicated that reducing methane
6 emissions from the energy industry could improve
7 public health for those at risk of cardiovascular
8 disease. By reducing our dependence on fossil fuels,
9 our children could enjoy a healthier future. Why is
10 this not the number one priority of the 2024 Carbon
11 Plan? My childhood included many happy hours at
12 Wrightsville Beach. Our children and grandchildren
13 want to spend time there. Scientists tell us that the
14 warming climate will cause rising sea levels and
15 increasingly frequent and intense hurricanes. And I
16 see images on the news of beach front erosion along
17 the Outer Banks and I wonder would sea level rise or a
18 destructive hurricane threaten our beloved
19 Wrightsville. I have been blessed with many forms of
20 privilege, including that I could afford not to live
21 where follows fuels are transported or stored. I'm
22 reminded of this privilege when I drive through
23 Greensboro where tank farms are located right next to
24 the interstate. People living in counties where

1 pipelines are located are at greater risk of facing
2 boarder and air pollution and other risks associated
3 with the pipelines.

4 Researchers at North Carolina State
5 University has shown the counties with the most
6 socially vulnerable populations. People of color and
7 low-wealth communities have significantly higher
8 pipeline densities. Now Duke Energy proposes
9 extending the pipeline into Alamance County through a
10 highly residential area within half a half hour of
11 Alamance Community College. How will this pipeline
12 effect the lives of the people and, especially,
13 children living there?

14 In conclusion, Duke Energy's 2024 Carbon
15 Plan falls short of the goals that they helped to
16 write in 2021. It appears that profit has been
17 prioritized ahead of public health and safety. This
18 latest proposal continues to invest in and expand on
19 the use of pollution-generating fossil fuels and fails
20 to support the expansion of safer, healthier, clean
21 energy resources.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Matteson,
24 for your testimony. Let me see if there are questions

1 for you from counsel of the parties.

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley,
4 questions from you?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms. Matteson, there are no
7 questions for you tonight. Thank you very much for
8 your testimony and for your time, we appreciate it.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may unmute
11 our next witness.

12 THE WITNESS: Ellen Van Velsor.

13 ELLEN VAN VELSOR;

14 having been affirmed,

15 testified as follows:

16 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman, take it away.

17 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you for coming tonight.
18 If you could, please, spell your name, give your
19 address, and tell us your electric service provider.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes. Ellen. E-L-L-E-N. Van.
21 V, as in Victor, A-N. Velsor. V, as in Victor,
22 E-L-S-O-R. I live at 1050 Wakefield Drive, in
23 Greensboro, and Duke Energy is my electric provider.

24 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could

1 please give your statement.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 DIRECT STATEMENT BY ELLEN VAN VELSOR:

4 And thank you to the Commission first of all
5 for all you do. I recognize both the importance and
6 the difficulty of the Commission's work.

7 I have two requests this evening; that the
8 Commission reject any plans from Duke Energy that do
9 not meet the decarbonization goals of 70 percent
10 emissions reductions by 2030 as required by law, and
11 Duke be required to submit at least one modeled Plan
12 that does not include new fossil fuel generation.
13 While the law allows the Utilities Commission to
14 authorize a two-year delay if it deems it's necessary,
15 my understanding is that the intent of the law is not
16 to roll back deadlines in the planning phase, but
17 rather to do so primarily when implementing nuclear or
18 offshore wind installation due to issues that occur in
19 ways that are beyond Duke's ability to anticipate or
20 control. I feel, at this point, there is insufficient
21 evidence being presented to justify such an exception
22 to the requirements of settled law.

23 In order to meet the goals established by
24 law, it's critical that Duke stop building new fossil

1 fuel plants, places existing plants on an accelerated
2 retirement path, and accelerates the building of clean
3 energy facilities and grid scale storage. Therefore,
4 I'm asking that Duke be required to present at least
5 one Plan that prioritizes renewables. The Plans
6 currently presented seem unrealistic in the proposed
7 timeline for the build out of nuclear power and in the
8 proposed dependence of near-future availability of
9 green hydrogen. I understand the least cost solution
10 need prioritization, but I ask that the Commission
11 carefully scrutinize Duke's cost estimate. The plans
12 add a 20 percent markup to the cost of renewables,
13 while underestimating the cost for both fossil fuel
14 and nuclear build out.

15 In addition, the fact that Duke is proposing
16 to build a fossil fuel generation facility in South
17 Carolina that will provide power to North Carolina but
18 is not being folded into North Carolina emission's
19 reporting is also an issue I'd like to see the
20 Commission review.

21 Thank you so much this evening for your
22 time.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Van Velsor,
24 let me see if there are questions for you from counsel

1 for the parties.

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: There are no questions from
4 counsel. Commissioner Duffley, any questions?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms. Van Velsor, thank you,
7 again, for your testimony tonight. We appreciate your
8 time.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may go ahead
11 and unmute our next witness.

12 THE WITNESS: This is Alison Kubicsko. Am I
13 being heard?

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Yes. Good evening,
15 Ms. Kubicsko.

16 ALISON KUBICKSKO;
17 having been affirmed,
18 testified as follows:

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman, you may take
20 it away.

21 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. Ms. Kubicsko, if
22 you could spell your name, give your address, and then
23 tell us your electric service provider.

24 THE WITNESS: Sure. My first name is

1 Allison. A-L-I-S-O-N. My last name is Kubicsko.
2 K-U-B-I-C-S-K-O. My address is 5416 Big Bass Drive,
3 in Raleigh, 27610, and Duke Energy Progress is my
4 provider. 2.

5 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you very much for that.
6 If you could please make your statement or give your
7 comments.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 DIRECT STATEMENT BY ALISON KUBICKO:

10 And hello. I live in Raleigh with my
11 husband and our dog, and I first want to thank the
12 Commission for taking public comments here virtually
13 and at the in-person hearings as well. I really
14 appreciate the work of the Commission in making sure
15 that we have reliable, affordable energy. I recognize
16 the work you're doing and how consuming it must be to
17 listen and balance all the input from so many
18 stakeholders in regards to implementing the Carbon
19 Plan. So thank you.

20 I'm testifying today in response to Duke
21 Energy's proposal because I want to stress my concern
22 about climate change and the need to reduce our carbon
23 emissions now. I hope the Commission will hold Duke
24 Energy accountable to North Carolina's Carbon Plan

1 commitment of 70 percent emissions reduction by 2030
2 as laid out by the law. Later is too late to reduce
3 our emissions and to reduce our fossil fuel use.

4 Duke Energy extending the deadline to 2035
5 for really no good reason at all is really just
6 kicking the can down the road. We know the cost of
7 renewables have come down significantly, yet, their
8 Plan arbitrarily inflate those costs while also
9 underestimating the cost of fossil fuels. It
10 shouldn't be ignored that burning fossil fuels has a
11 cost, not just to the environment through climate
12 change, but to our health as well through the
13 pollution that we're all breathing in. Not to mention
14 that fossil fuels will not last forever. Building
15 fossil fuel plants is short-sited. Ratepayers will be
16 the ones paying for these plants that will be obsolete
17 in just a few short years. That is not a cost that I
18 am looking forward to paying.

19 I'm especially bothered by Duke Energy's
20 idea of building a new gas plant in South Carolina and
21 not taking those emissions into account, which goes
22 against what they've promise us before. It feels
23 deceptive and dishonest. I learned about climate
24 change in high school. I learned about how

1 devastating it can be, but also that there are
2 solutions and ways that we can avoid the worst. We
3 have innovators, inventors, advocates, public
4 servants, and business people who would surely solve
5 this problem quickly; but, here 15 years later, it
6 seems like we're dancing around this issue when we
7 have an opportunity to the face it head on in a
8 forward-thinking way.

9 I recently moved here from New York, and I'm
10 sure there are opinions about transplants, but the
11 truth is, I could have moved anywhere, but I chose
12 North Carolina because it is a beautiful state full of
13 welcoming, kind, and hardworking people, full of
14 natural places of enjoyment, and I'm sure none of us
15 want to see the people and places we love harmed by
16 the impacts of climate change.

17 I have hope that our state can be a leader
18 in the south and in the country in this moment. We
19 can be leaders in emission reductions and renewable
20 energy deployment and we can reject the building of
21 new fossil fuel plants. I ask the Commission to,
22 please, make sure that Duke Energy stays within the
23 Carbon Plan's 2030 goal and demand a proposal without
24 new fossil fuel generation.

1 Thank you so much for your time.

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you for your
3 testimony, Ms. Kubicsko. Let me see if there are
4 questions for you from counsel.

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: No questions from counsel
7 and Commissioner Duffley?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: No questions from
10 Commissioner Duffley. Ms. Kubicsko, we appreciate
11 your testimony and your testimony tonight. Thank you
12 for being with us.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may unmute
15 the next witness.

16 THE WITNESS: Hi. Can everybody hear me
17 okay?

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: Yes. Could you let me know
19 your name, please.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes. It's Beth Carmichael.

21 BETH CARMICHAEL;
22 having been affirmed,
23 testified as follows:

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman, take it away.

1 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. Ms. Carmichael, if
2 you could please spell your name, give your address,
3 and let us know your electric service provider.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes. My name is Beth
5 Carmichael. Its, B-E-T-H. Carmichael.
6 C-A-R-M-I-C-H-A-E-L. And my address is 812 Cotton
7 Exchange Court, Raleigh, North Carolina 27608, and I
8 am with Duke Energy Progress. 2.

9 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could
10 please make your statements.

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.
12 DIRECT STATEMENT BY BETH CARMICHAEL:

13 So as I said, my name is Beth, and thank you
14 so much to the Commission for allowing me the
15 opportunity to come and speak tonight.

16 I've been a North Carolina resident for the
17 past 16 years, and I live in Raleigh with a brilliant,
18 but precocious 13-year-old daughter. And I absolutely
19 love North Carolina, and I would not want to rear my
20 daughter anywhere else. It truly is home for me.

21 I'd like to start by staying that I'm very
22 grateful to the Commission for keeping electricity
23 rates in North Carolina among the lowest in the
24 country. I, especially, want to thank you for the

1 recent Order establishing the PowerPair Program. I
2 think this is a fantastic forward-looking program
3 because of -- you guys clearly recognize it encourages
4 North Carolinians to install solar panels and
5 batteries in their homes, and will have a beneficial
6 effect on our environment and on our economy. As I've
7 been watching the Carbon Plan process unfold, I don't
8 quite know how to say this but, I just -- I'm not
9 fully convinced that Duke Energy is playing straight
10 with us. From what I can tell, it seems like they're
11 inflating the cost of renewables while, at the same
12 time, being overly optimistic about the cost for gas
13 and nuclear generation. Duke says that renewables
14 and, particularly, battery storage are unproven and
15 not yet salable, but in their estimates, they're
16 relying on the conversion of gas plants to hydrogen,
17 which is far from proven to meet our reduction
18 targets. And we don't have the infrastructure for
19 hydrogen, and we also didn't get a hydrogen hub in the
20 infrastructure law. So what is going to happen when
21 the cost projections for this hydrogen plant don't pan
22 out?

23 Nuclear is the other big pillar of their
24 Plan. And, don't get me wrong, I'm a big fan of

1 SMR's, but, as with hydrogen, it feels like we're
2 getting -- not getting the full story here. The
3 actual cost for nuclear are much higher in the real
4 world than what Duke is suggesting. So my question
5 is, what are the consequences if they are wrong about
6 all these costs? The cost estimates are so wonky that
7 I can't help but wonder if renewable sources really
8 are a more expensive or riskier than what they're
9 proposing. After all, everybody knows the cost of
10 renewables has been dropping recently and are probably
11 pretty competitive. The thing that probably concerns
12 me the most about Duke's Plan is that it's very
13 suspicious to me that the gas plant they want to build
14 in South Carolina that's supposed to provide energy to
15 North Carolina, but Duke doesn't want to count the
16 carbon pollutions from that plant and their numbers
17 for the Carbon Plan. I think that contradicts what
18 they proposed during their public input period, and I,
19 frankly, don't understand how that's legal.

20 I'm not an energy expert, but it just feels
21 like Duke is putting their thumb on the scale with
22 their cost analysis. And I don't really think it's a
23 good idea for us to bet the farm on this much
24 uncertainty. We've all seen what happens when Duke

1 has to spend money that it wasn't anticipating. And
2 it, frankly, still bothers me that I have to pay for
3 that coal ash cleanup.

4 So as a Tar heel and a mom, I'm asking the
5 Commission to, please, stand with the people of North
6 Carolina so that we can have a healthy environment and
7 good prices at the same time.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Carmichael.
9 Let me see if there are questions for you from
10 counsel.

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms. Carmichael, there are
15 no questions for you tonight. We appreciate your
16 being with us and your testimony. Thank you very
17 much.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may unmute
20 our next witness.

21 THE WITNESS: Jacob Van Kretschmar.

22 JACOB VAN KRETSCHMAR;
23 having been affirmed,
24 testified as follows:

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman, you may take
2 it away.

3 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. Mr. Kretschmar, if
4 you could, please, spell your name, give us your
5 address, and tell us your electric service provider.

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. My name is Jacob
7 Van Kretschmar. Three words. First word, Jacob.
8 J-A-C-O-B. Second word, Van. V, as in Victor, A-N.
9 Third word, Kretschmar. K, as in kitchen; R, as in
10 raspberry; E, as in Edward; T, as in Tree; S, as in
11 snake; C, as in cheese; H, as in Harry; M, as in Mary;
12 A, as in apple; R, as in raspberry. I live at 111
13 Rock Hound Road, Knightdale, 27545. My electricity
14 provider is Duke Energy.

15 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could,
16 please, give us your statement.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

18 DIRECT STATEMENT BY JACOB VAN KRETSCHMAR:

19 Good evening. I want to thank the
20 Commission for giving me, and other North Carolinians,
21 an opportunity to express our concerns about the
22 proposed Carbon Plan mandated by House Bill 951.

23 I've lived in North Carolina for 38 years.
24 I have a daughter and three nieces living in our

1 state. I'm concerned about the consequences of a
2 warming planet on their health, safety, and financial
3 security. Additionally, I have worked as an
4 entomologist long enough in this state to have seen
5 increased average annual temperatures that favor more
6 generations of crop pests and public health pests.

7 HB 951 represents the will of North
8 Carolinians that carbon emissions that are heating the
9 planet be reduced. The Bill represents responsive and
10 responsible public policy and that it balances that
11 will with the need for electricity. The Bill
12 specifies emission reduction goals, a timeline, and a
13 least cost approach.

14 The Carbon Plan that is adopted should be
15 designed to meet those specifications. Current costs
16 favor scale-up of available renewables and storage
17 technologies. Proposals to increase electricity
18 generation by increasing natural gas use fail to
19 appreciate that natural gas is a carbon emitter, and
20 ignore the availability of non-emitting alternatives.
21 A carbon Plan that proposes to rely on future hydrogen
22 production and future hydrogen infrastructure to meet
23 the statutes timeline is not persuasive. The adopted
24 Carbon Plan stakeholders should include consumers who

1 may lack the financial means to insulate themselves
2 and their loved ones from the consequences of failing
3 to meet HB 951's goals, timeline, and least cost
4 approach.

5 Thank you for considering the Carbon Plan's
6 importance, the well being of all North Carolinians.
7 I respect the Commissioners for engaging with the
8 challenge of authorizing a Carbon Plan that fulfills
9 HB 951.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Van
12 Kretschmar. Let me see if there are questions for you
13 from counsel.

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: No questions from counsel.
16 And from, Commissioner Duffley?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: No questions from
19 Commissioner Duffley. Mr. Van Kretschmar, we
20 appreciate your testimony tonight and for your time.
21 Thank you very much.

22 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Thank you-all.

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, if you would
24 unmute our next witness.

1 THE WITNESS: Suzanna Watkins.

2 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Ms. Watkins.

3 SUZANNA WATKINS;

4 having been affirmed,

5 testified as follows:

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman, you may take
7 it away.

8 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could
9 please spell your name, give your address, and tell us
10 your electric service provider.

11 THE WITNESS: First name is Suzanna.
12 S-U-Z-A-N-N-A. Last name Watkins. W-A-T-K-I-N-S. My
13 address is 925 Marguerite Drive, Winston Salem, North
14 Carolina 27106, and I'm a Duke Energy customer.

15 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could,
16 please, make your statement.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

18 DIRECT STATEMENT BY SUZANNA WATKINS:

19 My name is Suzanna Watkins. I'm a North
20 Carolina resident since 1970, and I'm extremely
21 concerned about the climate crisis and I believe that
22 the federal government and every state need to act
23 quickly to reduce carbon emission using all resources
24 at their disposal.

1 The North Carolina Utilities Commission is
2 one of our most powerful resources, and it has done a
3 great job keeping utility rates low and working on
4 behalf of North Carolina citizens with innovative
5 programs like tariffed on-bill financing for energy
6 efficient upgrades and directing Duke Energy to speed
7 up pilot programs that will strengthen the grid and
8 make it more efficient. I am so worried the places I
9 love in our state will vanish if the climate crisis is
10 not addressed aggressively. Will rising seas drown
11 our beach communities? Will salt water intrusion in
12 coastal farmland displace farmers. Mountain peak leaf
13 season has already migrated to November. Imagine it
14 in December, and the stress that that will put on our
15 forests.

16 Duke Energy's preferred Carbon Plan pushes
17 the 70 percent decarbonization goal to 2035. We can't
18 afford this delay. Pushing back the deadline is meant
19 to be a last resort, not Duke's default starting
20 place. Climate change is driven by accumulated carbon
21 emission. So the faster we can reduce carbon, the
22 more we will save over time in terms of climate-based
23 remediation, health effects, insurance premiums, and
24 so forth.

1 I see serious flaws in Duke's Carbon Plan.
2 Duke seems to be playing a shell game by planning a
3 fossil gas generation plant in South Carolina to serve
4 North Carolina customers, but not counting the plant's
5 emissions toward the North Carolina Carbon Plan
6 requirement. If we are paying for the power, the
7 emissions need to be included in the carbon plant.
8 But better yet, Duke should rollback plans for new
9 fossil fuel plants. The idea that they can be
10 transitioned into hydrogen is a real stretch for the
11 imagination, as there is no scalable model for green
12 hydrogen anywhere in the world yet. Will these plants
13 become expensive white elephants in 20 years with
14 customers bearing the costs?

15 While hydrogen power is a dream, proven
16 technologies exist at a lower cost right now to meet
17 the decarbonization goal. Duke has inexplicitly
18 passed on a 20 percent increase cost estimate for
19 renewables when real market data show renewals to be
20 the cheapest way to generate electricity.

21 I urge the North Carolina Utilities
22 Commission to reject any plans that do not meet the
23 decarbonization goal of 70 percent emissions
24 reductions by 2030, as required by Statute HB 951.

1 Duke Energy has so much money and talent at its
2 disposal, all they lack is the will to develop the
3 best Carbon Plan for North Carolina. The North
4 Carolina Utilities Commission can show them the way.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Watkins, for
7 your testimony tonight. Are there questions for the
8 witness?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: No questions from counsel.
11 I see no questions from Commissioner Duffley. Ms.
12 Watkins, we appreciate your time tonight and for your
13 thoughtful comments.

14 Mr. McCoy, you may unmute your next witness.

15 THE WITNESS: Hi. I'm Kathy Denham.

16 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good evening, Ms. Denham.

17 CATHY DENHAM;

18 having been affirmed,

19 testified as follows:

20 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman.

21 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. Ms. Denham, if you
22 could, please, spell your name, give your address, and
23 then tell us who your electric service provider is.

24 THE WITNESS: I'm Cathy Denham. Spelled,

1 C-A-T-H-Y. D-E-N-H-A-M. My address is 111 Peters
2 Place, Davidson, North Carolina, and my service
3 provider is Duke Power.

4 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could,
5 please, make your statement.

6 DIRECT STATEMENT BY CATHY DENHAM:

7 I will be very brief. I wanted to call as a
8 school teacher. I'm an elementary school teacher, and
9 I would also like to agree with my fellow citizens
10 whom I've been listening to give all -- just very
11 convincing testimony about why Duke Power needs to
12 meet the decarbonization goals for the future of our
13 children and grandchildren.

14 I'm calling as a school teacher because I
15 think it's good for the Commission to know that even
16 children can see climate change happening, and they're
17 very aware and they also are -- bear the brunt of
18 pollution from fossil fuel energy. The coal-fired
19 power plants all along the Catawba River are
20 generators of a lot of air pollution.

21 Duke's Plan is switching to natural gas, but
22 that is also a fossil fuel. And we have renewable and
23 energy that is much better, as the other witnesses
24 have said. So I'll be very brief. I just wanted to

1 call on behalf of the children that I teach because
2 every day we experience when we're outdoors trying to
3 grow lettuce and it gets really hot and then it gets
4 really cold and then it rains really hard and then
5 there's blistering heat again, that our lettuce
6 doesn't grow well. And that also effects every farm
7 in North Carolina. But that is an important thing for
8 the Commissioners to consider as well as all of the
9 facts that people are giving is that this is about the
10 future of our children. And, also, protecting wild
11 life for our children's enjoyment. If it's really
12 hot, then the little baby birds may die in their nest,
13 and that's very tragic for children to see.

14 I think I'm going to conclude there, because
15 the other witnesses have said everything so well.
16 Please require Duke Energy to meet the decarbonization
17 that is in the House Bill.

18 Thank you so much.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Denham. Let
20 me see if there are questions for you from counsel or,
21 from Commissioner Duffley.

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms. Denham, there are no
24 questions for you tonight. We appreciate your

1 testimony, and we appreciate your time. Thank you
2 very much.

3 Mr. McCoy, you may go ahead with the next
4 witness.

5 THE WITNESS: Matthew Mayers.

6 MATTHEW MAYERS;
7 having been affirmed,
8 testified as follows:

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Freeman, take it away.

10 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could
11 please spell your name, give us your address, and tell
12 us who your electric service provider is.

13 THE WITNESS: Matthew Mayers.
14 M-A-T-T-H-E-W. M-A-Y-E-R-S. I live at 2844 Wesleyan
15 Lane, in Winston Salem 27106, and my service provider
16 is Duke Energy Carolinas.

17 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could
18 please make your statement.

19 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

20 DIRECT STATEMENT BY MATTHEW MAYERS:

21 And, thank you, to counsel and Commissioners
22 for this opportunity to testify this evening and for
23 all of the hard work that I know all of you put into
24 this. I'm especially thankful for the recent Order on

1 the tariffed on-bill financing, which I think is
2 important and it will help a lot more people be able
3 to afford energy and efficiency upgrades, and to
4 really help us move forward in our state. I do want
5 to the express some concerns about the Carbon Plan, as
6 many people have so far. Chiefly about the timeline.
7 As others have mentioned, HB 951 called for a 70
8 percent decarbonization of our grid by 2030. The
9 preferred plan put forward by Duke Energy calls for
10 pushing that back five years and, actually, if you
11 take into account the South Carolina gas plant that
12 has been mentioned several times before tonight, it's
13 really more like 2037. I'd like to just remind the
14 Commission that we keep referring to this as Duke's
15 Plan, but really the law puts this on you. This is
16 your Carbon Plan even if Duke is doing most of the
17 modeling to create the input.

18 So if I were a Commissioner, I might be
19 somewhat concerned about push back. It appears to be
20 of questionable legality to do this push back under
21 the circumstances because there are no unforeseen
22 delays, as specified in the statute. And there's
23 really only leeway for the Commission to push it back
24 two years. I'd be concerned about push back from the

1 legislature or even possible legal challenges. I
2 imagine that some of you probably -- or maybe all of
3 you -- saw, in one way or another, the meeting of the
4 Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy last
5 month. And at the beginning of that meeting, Senator
6 Newton mentioned this requirement that the Carbon Plan
7 meets least cost standards, which is true. That's
8 right there in the statute; however, he made it sound
9 as if least cost is the main objective and that other
10 things come after that. And Senator Newton, as a
11 former Duke executive, undoubtedly knows better than
12 that because, you know, we don't say, "well, we're
13 going to do reliability and adequacy only if it's the
14 cheapest possible thing to do." We say, "we have
15 goals. And we will meet those goals in the least cost
16 possible way."

17 Similarly, House Bill 951 sets out
18 decarbonization goals that we're supposed to meet in a
19 least cost way. We're not doing that. And we're
20 being asked by Duke to push it back and to invest in
21 gas plants to convert to hydrogen that nobody really
22 knows if that's possible to invest in nuclear plants
23 at costs that Duke is making claims about that are
24 probably about half of reality.

1 Instead, I hope that the Commission will
2 consider looking at a recent report from Energy
3 Innovation called -- the title of the report is,
4 "Meeting Growing Electricity Demand Without Gas." And
5 I'll be sure to put that into written comment on your
6 website so that everyone has access to a link to that.
7 I think I'm probably already out of time, so I will
8 just say thank you, again, and I hope you will
9 consider the many, many ways there are to put more
10 renewables onto the grid and to avoid putting more
11 carbon in into our atmosphere for the sake of us all.

12 Thank you so much. Bye. Bye.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you for your
14 testimony. Let me see if there are questions for you
15 from our counsel or from Commissioner Duffley.

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: There are no questions for
18 you, Mr. Mayers. Thank you very much for your time
19 tonight and for your testimony. We appreciate your
20 being hear with us.

21 Mr. McCoy, if you would, call the next
22 witness.

23 THE WITNESS: Good evening.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: Sir, you need to mute your

1 computer.

2 THE WITNESS: Is that better?

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Yes. That's better. If
4 you would, please, let us know your name.

5 THE WITNESS: Jim Brame.

6 JIM BRAME;

7 having been affirmed,

8 testified as follows:

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy [sic].

10 MR. FREEMAN: Mr. Brame, if you'd please
11 spell your name, give your address, and tell us who is
12 your electric service provider.

13 THE WITNESS: It's Jim Brame. B-R-A-M-E.
14 My address is 15 Morning Star Drive, Leicester, North
15 Carolina 28748, and my provider is Duke Progress.

16 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could,
17 please, give us your statement.

18 DIRECT STATEMENT BY JIM BRAME:

19 First of all, thank you, as a Commission,
20 for giving us the opportunity to speak to you and
21 provide you with our perspectives on what is being
22 proposed. I urge you to reject Duke's drafted Carbon
23 Plan because it does not meet the objectives from the
24 target that it's supposed to meet; and, secondly, I

1 don't feel that it's the least cost approach that
2 could be done.

3 As a ratepayer, I have experienced increases
4 passed onto me as the price of natural gas has spiked.
5 While this doesn't impact Duke's bottom line, it
6 certainly impacts my bill. Adding three more
7 gas-fired plants will only increase the risk of price
8 volatility for ratepayers, even though it might help
9 Duke's bottom line. While the current policy allows
10 Duke to profit by building more plants, it certainly
11 doesn't necessarily mean we, as ratepayers, will
12 benefit as Duke's bottom line will.

13 I'm deeply concerned that Duke's plans will
14 not meet the required 2030 deadline to meet the 70
15 percent carbon reduction goal. I'm deeply troubled
16 that Duke includes unproven and likely expensive
17 modular nuclear plants. The history of nuclear plants
18 shows lost cost overruns and long delays. And, of
19 course, those costs are passed on to us, as
20 ratepayers, not absorbed by Duke; secondly, they are
21 proposing green hydrogen and, again, that's an
22 unproven technology and certainly unproven in scale to
23 meet the timelines we're talking about. And there's a
24 high risk in going that route in an unproven

1 technology.

2 I'm -- also Duke's Commissioner report from
3 the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which showed
4 that the most economic way to meet the goal by -- is
5 by tripling the number of solar on the grid by 2030
6 and pairing that with battery storage.

7 In addition to that, Duke included a
8 20 percent incre- -- extra 20 percent to the cost of
9 solar, which I think -- but, also at the same time,
10 underestimates the cost of natural gas. This is
11 particularly risky as we are likely to face a carbon
12 tax on restrictions on use of fossil fuels long before
13 these plants are retired. And I'm also very
14 concerned, again, as a ratepayer that if these -- if
15 Duke is forced to close these gas plants before their
16 normal life span, that we, as ratepayers, will be
17 forced to, again, pay the cost of building the
18 replacements instead of doing that now so we're only
19 investing one time. And I think there's a high
20 likelihood that, as climate change continues to become
21 more real, that government will pass restrictions
22 either in the form of a carbon tax or in the form of
23 actually requiring that -- from a federal standpoint,
24 that Duke reduce the amount of carbon in a more

1 aggressive form. Again we, as ratepayers, will be
2 left holding the bag when that happens, not Duke, it's
3 ratepayers.

4 In conclusion, Duke can meet the 2030
5 targets by building industrial scale solar with
6 battery storage and, also, with energy efficiency; as
7 well as being the right thing to do for our
8 environment. It's also, I think, the right thing for
9 us, as ratepayers. We need to be focusing on proven
10 technologies not speculative technologies such as
11 modular, nuclear, and green hydrogen. And we need to
12 prioritize ratepayers over Duke's profits.

13 Again, thank you for giving me the
14 opportunity to speak to you tonight, and I hope you
15 will consider this and send Duke back to the drawing
16 board to come up with plans that actually meet the
17 required deadline and targets.

18 Thank you very much.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Brame. Let
20 me see if there are questions for you from the
21 parties.

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR MITCHELL: Commissioner Duffley?

24 (No response.)

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Brame, there are no
2 questions for you tonight. We appreciate your
3 testimony and your time. Thank you for being with us.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, you may call the
6 next witness.

7 THE WITNESS: This is Beth McKee-Huger.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms.--

9 THE WITNESS: Can you hear me?

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: We can hear you.

11 BETH MCKEE-HUGER;

12 having been duly sworn,

13 testified as follows:

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy-- I mean, Mr.
15 Freeman, you may take it away.

16 MR. FREEMAN: If you could, please, spell
17 your name, give us your address, and tell us your
18 electric service provider.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes. Beth. B-E-T-H. McKee
20 Huger. M-C-K-E-E-H-U-G-E-R. My address is 6017 Bush
21 Road, in Brown Summit 27214, and it's Duke Energy
22 Carolinas.

23 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you. If you could,
24 please, make your statement.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 DIRECT STATEMENT BY BETH MCKEE-HUGER:

3 Yesterday was Earth Day, but, every day Duke
4 is slow walking its responsibility to transition to
5 clean energy by 2050. By then, many of us, as well as
6 much more of the planet, will be dead.

7 In comparing P1, P2, and Duke's favorite,
8 P3, it looks like P -- Duke will not even be starting
9 to ramp up solar capacity and storage until 2030, not
10 develop offshore wind by 2038. Both P2 and P3
11 significantly increase gas, which is a significant
12 heat trapper in the atmosphere. Duke is quoted in
13 the -- in the Plan saying, "the key differentiator
14 across the pathways is the pace of transition in terms
15 of the relative cost and risk related to cost while
16 volatility, reliability, and overall the market's
17 ability to deliver successful Plan execution."
18 Pathway One, they say, "looked from a planning
19 perspective reaches the interim target by 2030, would
20 require resource additions at a pace, scope, and scale
21 outside of the realm of reasonable and prudent utility
22 planning and execution." End quote.

23 So I urge the Commission to require Duke to
24 invest those necessary resources to accelerate the

1 pace, scope, and scale to reach the target of 2030.
2 It is not reasonable nor prudent to continue polluting
3 air and water with heat-trapping gases from burning
4 fossil fuels. I am a power producer with a small
5 solar installation as part of our contract with Duke
6 to transmit kilowatt hours, we had to pay Duke to
7 upgrade its own grid. With Duke's policies like that,
8 and many other policies that discourage solar
9 investment, North Carolina's gone from number two in
10 solar production to way down the list, and our economy
11 and our earth are paying the price. When Duke
12 prepared P1, we can see that it knows how to
13 transition in a reasonable -- semi-reasonable timing,
14 it just doesn't do it unless it's forced to.

15 For the sake of our earth, force that change
16 now. Don't wait until 2030 or 2035 or 2050.

17 Thank you to the Commission.

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms. Mckee-Huger, we
19 appreciate your testimony. Let me see if there are
20 questions from counsel or from Commissioner Duffley.

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR MITCHELL: There are no questions for
23 you tonight. So thank you very much for being with
24 us. We appreciate your time.

1 Kaylene, if you would, let me know how
2 you're doing. We're at about an hour and forty-five.
3 Well, actually, no, we're about an hour and fifteen.

4 MR. FREEMAN: Chair?

5 CHAIR MITCHELL: Yes.

6 MR. FREEMAN: I believe those may be all the
7 witnesses we're aware of.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. McCoy, is that
9 consistent with what you have?

10 COMMISSIONER MCKISSICK: That is correct.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: So we have no more
12 witnesses?

13 MR. MCCOY: Yes, no more.

14 CHAIR MITCHELL: If you would, Mr. McCoy,
15 just to be on the safe side, would you check one more
16 time to make sure there's no one else on the line.

17 MR. MCCOY: No, we are good to go.

18 CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay. With that, then, we
19 will be adjourned.

20 (The proceedings were adjourned.)
21
22
23
24

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KAYLENE CLAYTON, do hereby certify that the Proceedings in the above-captioned matter were taken before me, that I did report in stenographic shorthand the Proceedings set forth herein, and the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription to the best of my ability.

Kaylene Clayton

Kaylene Clayton