

1 PLACE: Dobbs Building, Raleigh, North Carolina

2 DATE: Tuesday, September 9, 2019

3 TIME: 4:10 p.m. - 5:01 p.m.

4 DOCKET NO: E-2, Sub 1204

5 BEFORE: Chair Charlotte A. Mitchell, Presiding

6 Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland

7 Commissioner Lyons Gray

8 Commissioner Daniel G. Clodfelter

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IN THE MATTER OF:

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Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC,

13

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.2 and NCUC Rule R8-55

14

Regarding Fuel and Fuel-Related Cost Adjustments for

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Electric Utilities.

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VOLUME 1

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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 E-2, Sub 1204 Volume 1 - Partial confidential

3 MS. MITCHELL: Good afternoon. Let's come
4 to order and go on the record, please. I'm Charlotte
5 Mitchell, the Chair of the Utilities Commission, and
6 with me this afternoon are Commissioners ToNola D.
7 Brown-Bland, Lyons Gray and Daniel G. Clodfelter.

8 I now call for hearing Docket Number E-2,
9 Sub 1204, which is the Application by Duke Energy
10 Progress, LLC, pursuant to North Carolina General
11 Statute § 62-133.2 and Commission Rule R8-55 relating
12 to fuel and fuel-related charge adjustments for
13 electric utilities.

14 On June 11th, 2019, Duke filed its
15 Application to adjust the fuel and fuel-related cost
16 component of electric rates with supporting testimony
17 and exhibits and workpapers of Dana Harrington, and
18 the testimony and exhibits of Regis Repko, Kenneth
19 Church, Kelvin Henderson and Brett Phipps.

20 On June 20th, 2019, the Commission issued
21 its Order Scheduling Hearing, Requiring the Filing of
22 Testimony, Establishing Discovery Guidelines
23 and Requesting Public Notice.

24 On August 15th, 2019, Duke filed additional

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 testimony and exhibits stating that based on an update
2 of its fuel cost through June 30th, 2019, an increase
3 in the residential and non-residential fuel rates
4 initially included in its Application is necessary.

5 On August 23rd, 2019, Duke filed a request
6 to publish a second public notice to inform ratepayers
7 of the change in the proposed fuel rates.

8 And on August 26th, 2019, the Commission
9 issued an Order Requiring the Publication of a Second
10 Public Notice.

11 On August 19th, 2019, the Public Staff filed
12 the testimony and exhibits of Jay Lucas, Dustin Metz,
13 and Jenny Li.

14 On August 28th, 2019, Duke filed the
15 rebuttal testimony of Witness Kelvin Henderson,
16 Barbara Coppola, and John Halm.

17 Petitions to Intervene have been filed by
18 and granted to Fayetteville Public Works Commission,
19 North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation,
20 Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc., North
21 Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, the Sierra
22 Club, and Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility
23 Rates II.

24 On September 5th, 2019, the Public Staff

1 filed a motion requesting that witnesses Metz and Li
2 be excused from attending the expert witness hearing.

3 Also on September 5th, 2019, Duke filed a
4 motion requesting that witnesses Repko, Church and
5 Henderson be excused from attending the expert witness
6 hearing.

7 All parties have agreed to waive cross
8 examination of these witnesses.

9 On September 6th, 2019, the Commission
10 issued -- the Commission ordered that the Public Staff
11 witnesses Metz and Li and Duke's witnesses Repko,
12 Church, and Henderson all be excused from appearing at
13 this hearing, and that the testimony and exhibits of
14 the respective witnesses be received into evidence.

15 Pursuant to the State Ethics Act, I remind
16 all members of the Commission of their duty to avoid
17 conflicts of interest and inquire at this time as to
18 whether any Commissioner has a known conflict of
19 interest with respect to the matters appearing before
20 us this afternoon?

21 (No response)

22 Please let the record reflect that there are
23 no such conflicts. So we will move forward with the
24 proceeding, and I now call upon counsel for the

1 parties to announce their appearances, beginning with
2 the Applicant.

3 MR. JIRAK: Good afternoon, Chair Mitchell
4 and Commissioners. Jack Jirak and Dwight Allen on
5 behalf of Duke Energy Progress.

6 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good afternoon, Mr. Jirak.

7 MR. SMITH: Benjamin Smith on behalf of the
8 North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association.

9 MR. PAGE: Robert Page on behalf of Carolina
10 Utility Customers Association.

11 MR. McDONALD: Ralph McDonald for the
12 Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates II.

13 MR. WEST: James West appearing on behalf of
14 the Fayetteville Public Works Commission. Good
15 afternoon.

16 MS. THOMPSON: Good afternoon, Chair
17 Mitchell. Members of the Commission, Gudrun Thompson
18 appearing on behalf of the Sierra Club, and with me,
19 also appearing on behalf of Sierra Club, is Tirrell
20 Moore.

21 MS. DOWNEY: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
22 Dianna Downey representing the Public Staff and
23 representing the Using and Consuming Public.

24 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you. Are there any

1 preliminary matters that we must take up before we
2 move into the hearing? Mr. West.

3 MR. WEST: If I could raise just one, if I
4 could, which is I believe that the intervenors have
5 confidential exhibits. I don't know who has or has
6 not signed an NDA. I think we can probably rely on
7 Duke to identify who can and cannot receive, but the
8 outcome of that may be that we need to go in and out
9 of closed session several times.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. West. If
11 attorneys would please alert me when you intend to ask
12 questions on confidential information and we will
13 clear the room at that time for anyone who is not
14 under NDA with the Applicant.

15 MS. THOMPSON: Yes. And, Chair Mitchell,
16 I'll just go ahead, I believe the Company is putting
17 its witness Brett Phipps up first. I do have
18 questions for Mr. Phipps that are on confidential
19 exhibits starting with my very first question.

20 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.
21 Any other preliminary matters?

22 MR. JIRAK: And on that topic, all -- I
23 believe that all intervenor parties have executed
24 Confidentiality Agreements. Obviously, the terms of

1 the Confidentiality Agreement requires acknowledgment
2 who are seeking to access the confidential information
3 so, as far as parties go, we're aware to the extent
4 that we have not received it for a particular
5 individual from an intervenor, that particular
6 intervenor even if you're with that -- individuals
7 with the intervenor that's executed the
8 confidentiality would need to not be present for cross
9 examination on those topics.

10 CHAIR MITCHELL: I trust that, Mr. Jirak,
11 that you can handle that when the issue arises.

12 MR. JIRAK: Very good.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Okay. Ms. Downey, has the
14 Public Staff identified any public witnesses that are
15 here this afternoon to present testimony.

16 MS. DOWNEY: No, ma'am.

17 CHAIR MITCHELL: Are there any -- anyone in
18 the audience that wishes to present public testimony
19 this afternoon?

20 (No response)

21 It does not appear that anyone wishes to
22 present testimony so we will proceed with the case. I
23 call on Duke to present its evidence.

24 MR. JIRAK: Thank you. Chair Mitchell, as

1 you noted the Commission's September 6th, 2019, Order
2 excused a number of witnesses from appearing and also
3 noted that the testimony of those particular witnesses
4 would be received in the record. And, out of an
5 abundance of caution, I would now move the testimony
6 of Regis Repko, Kenneth D. Church, and Kelvin
7 Henderson, along with the relevant exhibits, into
8 evidence at this time.

9 CHAIR MITCHELL: Hearing no objection your
10 motion is allowed.

11 MR. JIRAK: Thank you.

12 (WHEREUPON, the prefiled direct
13 testimony of REGIS REPKO is copied
14 into the record as if given orally
15 from the stand.)
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BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1204

In the Matter of)	
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC)	DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
Pursuant to G.S. 62-133.2 and NCUC Rule)	REGIS REPKO FOR
R8-55 Relating to Fuel and Fuel-Related)	DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC
Charge Adjustments for Electric Utilities)	

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

2 A. My name is Regis Repko and my business address is 526 South Church Street,
3 Charlotte, North Carolina.

4 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

5 A. I am Senior Vice President and Chief Fossil/Hydro Officer for Duke Energy
6 Progress, LLC (“DEP” or the “Company”).

7 **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT DUTIES AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
8 AND CHIEF FOSSIL/HYDRO OFFICER?**

9 A. In this role, I am responsible for the operations of the Company's regulated fleet
10 of fossil, hydroelectric, and solar (collectively, "Fossil/Hydro/Solar") generating
11 facilities in six states, including outage and maintenance services.

12 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
13 BACKGROUND.**

14 A. I graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree
15 in Nuclear Engineering. My career began with Duke Energy in 1995 as an
16 engineer at Oconee Nuclear Station. I have held various roles of increasing
17 responsibility including nuclear shift supervisor, operations shift manager,
18 engineering supervisor, maintenance rotating equipment manager and
19 superintendent of operations, where I had responsibility for the operations of
20 Oconee Nuclear Station and Keowee Hydro Station. I have also served as
21 engineering manager for Catawba Nuclear Station and station manager for
22 McGuire Nuclear Station. I became the Senior Vice President and Chief
23 Fossil/Hydro Officer in 2016.

1 **Q. HAVE YOU TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMISSION IN ANY PRIOR**
2 **PROCEEDINGS?**

3 A. Yes. I testified before this Commission in the DEP NC 2015 Fuel Hearing Docket
4 E-2, Sub 1069.

5 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS**
6 **PROCEEDING?**

7 A. The purpose of my testimony is to (1) describe DEP's Fossil/Hydro/Solar
8 generation portfolio and changes made since the 2018 fuel and fuel-related cost
9 recovery proceeding, as well as those expected in the near term, (2) discuss the
10 performance of DEP's Fossil/Hydro/Solar facilities during the test period of April
11 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 (the "test period"), (3) provide information on
12 significant Fossil/Hydro/Solar outages that occurred during the test period, and (4)
13 provide information concerning environmental compliance efforts.

14 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE DEP'S FOSSIL/HYDRO/SOLAR GENERATION**
15 **PORTFOLIO.**

16 A. The Company's Fossil/Hydro/Solar generation portfolio consists of 9,204
17 megawatts ("MWs") of generating capacity, made up as follows:

18	Coal-fired -	3,544 MWs
19	Combustion Turbines -	2,816 MWs
20	Combined Cycle Turbines -	2,568 MWs
21	Hydro -	227 MWs
22	Solar -	49 MWs ¹

¹ This value represents the relative dependable capacity contribution to meeting summer peak demand, based on the Company's integrated resource planning metrics. The nameplate capacity of the Company's solar facilities is 141 MWs.

1 The 3,544 MWs of coal-fired generation represent the three generating stations of
2 Roxboro, Mayo, and Asheville, which total seven units. These units are equipped
3 with emission control equipment, including selective catalytic reduction (“SCR”)
4 equipment for removing nitrogen oxides (“NO_x”), flue gas desulfurization
5 (“FGD” or “scrubber”) equipment for removing sulfur dioxide (“SO₂”), and low
6 NO_x burners. This inventory of coal-fired assets with emission control equipment
7 enhances DEP’s ability to maintain current environmental compliance and
8 concurrently utilize coal with increased sulfur content – providing flexibility for
9 DEP to procure the most cost-effective options for fuel supply.

10 The Company has a total of 32 simple cycle combustion turbine (“CT”)
11 units, the larger 14 of which provide 2,183 MWs, or 78% of CT capacity. These
12 14 units are located at Asheville, Darlington, Richmond County, and Wayne
13 County facilities, and are equipped with water injection systems that reduce NO_x
14 and/or have low NO_x burner equipment in use. The 2,568 MWs shown as
15 “Combined Cycle Turbines” (“CC”) represent four power blocks. The H.F. Lee
16 Energy Complex CC power block (“Lee CC”) has a configuration of three CTs
17 and one steam turbine. The two Richmond County power blocks located at the
18 Smith Energy Complex consist of two CTs and one steam turbine each. The
19 Sutton Combined Cycle at Sutton Energy Complex (“Sutton CC”) consists of two
20 CTs and one steam turbine. The four CC power blocks are equipped with SCR
21 equipment, and all nine CTs have low NO_x burners. The steam turbines do not
22 combust fuel and, therefore, do not require NO_x controls. The Company’s hydro
23 fleet consists of 15 units providing 227 MWs of capacity. The Company’s solar
24 fleet consists of four sites providing 49 MWs of dependable capacity.

1 **Q. WHAT CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN THE**
2 **FOSSIL/HYDRO/SOLAR PORTFOLIO SINCE DEP'S 2018 FUEL AND**
3 **FUEL-RELATED COST RECOVERY PROCEEDING?**

4 A. Darlington CT Unit 5 retired in May 2018, which reduced capacity by 51 MWs.

5 **Q. WHAT ARE DEP'S OBJECTIVES IN THE OPERATION OF ITS**
6 **FOSSIL/HYDRO/SOLAR FACILITIES?**

7 A. The primary objective of DEP's Fossil/Hydro/Solar generation department is to
8 provide safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity to DEP's customers.
9 Operations personnel and other station employees are well-trained and execute
10 their responsibilities to the highest standards in accordance with procedures,
11 guidelines, and a standard operating model.

12 The Company complies with all applicable environmental regulations and
13 maintains station equipment and systems in a cost-effective manner to ensure
14 reliability for customers. The Company also takes action in a timely manner to
15 implement work plans and projects that enhance the safety and performance of
16 systems, equipment, and personnel, consistent with providing low-cost power
17 options for DEP's customers. Equipment inspection and maintenance outages are
18 generally scheduled during the spring and fall months when customer demand is
19 reduced due to milder temperatures. These outages are well-planned and executed
20 in order to prepare the unit for reliable operation until the next planned outage in
21 order to maximize value for customers.

22 **Q. WHAT IS HEAT RATE?**

23 A. Heat rate is a measure of the amount of thermal energy needed to generate a given
24 amount of electric energy and is expressed as British thermal units ("Btu") per

1 kilowatt-hour (“kWh”). A low heat rate indicates an efficient fleet that uses less
2 heat energy from fuel to generate electrical energy.

3 **Q. WHAT HAS BEEN THE HEAT RATE OF DEP’S COAL UNITS DURING**
4 **THE TEST PERIOD?**

5 A. Over the test period, the Company’s seven coal units produced 25% of the
6 Fossil/Hydro/Solar generation, with the average heat rate for the coal-fired units
7 being 11,352 Btu/kWh. The most active station during this period was Roxboro,
8 providing 68% of the coal production for the fleet with a heat rate of 10,624
9 Btu/kWh. During the test period, the Company’s four combined cycle power
10 blocks produced 59% of the Fossil/Hydro/Solar generation, with an average heat
11 rate of 7,167 Btu/kWh.

12 **Q. HOW MUCH GENERATION DID EACH TYPE OF**
13 **FOSSIL/HYDRO/SOLAR GENERATING FACILITY PROVIDE FOR**
14 **THE TEST PERIOD AND HOW DOES DEP UTILIZE EACH TYPE OF**
15 **GENERATING FACILITY TO SERVE CUSTOMERS?**

16 A. For the test period, DEP’s total system generation was 60,144,861 megawatt-
17 hours (“MWHs”), of which 32,396,712 MWHs, or approximately 54%, was
18 provided by the Fossil/Hydro/Solar fleet. The breakdown includes a 39%
19 contribution from gas facilities, 14% contribution from coal-fired stations, 1.4%
20 contribution from hydro facilities, and 0.4% from solar facilities.

21 The Company’s portfolio includes a diverse mix of units that, along with
22 its nuclear capacity, allows DEP to meet the dynamics of customer load
23 requirements in a logical and cost-effective manner. Additionally, DEP has
24 utilized the Joint Dispatch Agreement with Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC

1 (“DEC”), which allows generating resources for DEP and DEC to be dispatched
2 as a single system to enhance dispatching at the lowest possible cost. The cost
3 and operational characteristics of each unit generally determine the type of
4 customer load situation (e.g., base and peak load requirements) that a unit would
5 be called upon or dispatched to support.

6 **Q. HOW DID DEP COST EFFECTIVELY DISPATCH ITS DIVERSE MIX**
7 **OF GENERATING UNITS DURING THE TEST PERIOD?**

8 A. The Company, like other utilities across the U.S., has experienced a change in the
9 dispatch order for each type of generating facility due to continued favorable
10 economics resulting from the lower pricing of natural gas. Further, the addition
11 of new CC units within DEP’s portfolio in recent years has provided DEP with
12 additional natural gas resources that feature state-of-the-art technology for
13 increased efficiency and significantly reduced emissions. These factors promote
14 the use of natural gas and provide real benefits in cost of fuel and reduced
15 emissions for customers. Gas fired facilities provided 59% of the DEP
16 Fossil/Hydro/Solar generation during the test period.

17 **Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE OPERATIONAL RESULTS FOR DEP’S**
18 **FOSSIL/HYDRO/SOLAR FLEET DURING THE TEST PERIOD.**

19 A. The Company’s generating units operated efficiently and reliably during the test
20 period. Several key measures are used to evaluate the operational performance
21 depending on the generator type: (1) equivalent availability factor (“EAF”), which
22 refers to the percent of a given time period a facility was available to operate at
23 full power, if needed (EAF is not affected by the manner in which the unit is
24 dispatched or by the system demands; it is impacted, however, by planned and

1 unplanned maintenance (*i.e.*, forced) outage time); (2) net capacity factor
2 (“NCF”), which measures the generation that a facility actually produces against
3 the amount of generation that theoretically could be produced in a given time
4 period, based upon its maximum dependable capacity (NCF *is* affected by the
5 dispatch of the unit to serve customer needs); (3) equivalent forced outage rate
6 (“EFOR”), which represents the percentage of unit failure (unplanned outage
7 hours and equivalent unplanned derated hours); a low EFOR represents fewer
8 unplanned outage and derated hours, which equates to a higher reliability measure;
9 and, (4) starting reliability (“SR”), which represents the percentage of successful
10 starts.

11 The following chart provides operational results categorized by generator
12 type, as well as results from the most recently published North American Electric
13 Reliability Council (“NERC”) Generating Unit Statistical Brochure (“NERC
14 Brochure”) representing the period 2013 through 2017. The NERC data reported
15 for the coal-fired units represents an average of comparable units based on
16 capacity rating.

Generator Type	Measure	Review Period	2013-2017	Nbr of Units
		DEP Operational Results	NERC Average	
<i>Coal-Fired Test Period</i>	EAF	71.4%	81.6%	418
	NCF	25.9%	57.8%	
	EFOR	6.1%	8.1%	
<i>Coal-Fired Summer Peak</i>	EAF	93.1%	n/a	n/a
<i>Total CC Average</i>	EAF	80.3%	85.0%	338
	NCF	72.5%	52.7%	
	EFOR	4.77%	5.3%	
<i>Total CT Average</i>	EAF	80.2%	87.8%	776
	SR	98.7%	98.1%	
<i>Hydro</i>	EAF	79.7%	80.4%	1,113

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2 **Q. PLEASE DISCUSS SIGNIFICANT OUTAGES OCCURRING AT DEP'S**
3 **FOSSIL/HYDRO/SOLAR FACILITIES DURING THE TEST PERIOD.**

4 A. In general, planned maintenance outages for all fossil and hydro units are
5 scheduled for the spring and fall to maximize unit availability during periods of
6 peak demand. Most units had at least one short planned outage during this review
7 period to inspect and maintain plant equipment.

8 Roxboro Unit 4 had a planned outage in Spring 2018. The primary
9 purpose of the outage was to perform major boiler maintenance and precipitator
10 maintenance. Mayo Unit 1 had a planned outage in Fall 2018 to replace the
11 generator breaker and perform minor boiler maintenance. Roxboro Unit 2 had a
12 planned outage in Fall 2018. The primary purpose of the outage was to replace
13 burners, perform MATS inspection, and tie-in the dry bottom ash system.

14 The CC fleet performed planned outages at Richmond County CC PB5
15 and Sutton CC in Spring 2018. The primary purposes of the Richmond CC PB5
16 outage was to perform borescope inspections on the combustion turbines and

1 steam turbine, perform a Heat Recovery Steam Generator ("HRSG") inspection,
2 and balance of plant equipment maintenance. The primary purpose of the Sutton
3 CC outage was to perform a hot gas path inspection of the combustion turbines.

4 The CT fleet performed planned outages in Spring and Fall 2018. In
5 Spring 2018, Smith CT Unit 1 and Unit 2 had planned outages. The primary
6 purpose of the Smith CT Unit 1 outage was to replace the existing exhaust stack.
7 The primary purpose of the Smith CT Unit 2 outage was to rewind the generator
8 rotor, perform a hot gas path inspection, and replace the existing exhaust stack. In
9 Fall 2018, Asheville CT Unit 3 and Unit 4 had a planned outage to perform
10 transmission work in the switchyard for the new Asheville CC plant and to
11 perform balance of plant maintenance.

12 **Q. HOW DOES DEP ENSURE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS FOR**
13 **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE?**

14 A. The Company has installed pollution control equipment on coal-fired units, as
15 well as new generation resources, in order to meet various current federal, state,
16 and local reduction requirements for NO_x and SO₂ emissions. The SCR
17 technology that DEP currently operates on the coal-fired units uses ammonia or
18 urea for NO_x removal and the scrubber technology employed uses crushed
19 limestone or lime for SO₂ removal. SCR equipment is also an integral part of the
20 design of the newer CC facilities in which aqueous ammonia (19% solution of
21 NH₃) is introduced for NO_x removal.

22 Overall, the type and quantity of chemicals used to reduce emissions at the
23 plants varies depending on the generation output of the unit, the chemical
24 constituents in the fuel burned, and/or the level of emissions reduction required.

1 The Company is managing the impacts, favorable or unfavorable, as a result of
2 changes to the fuel mix and/or changes in coal burn and utilization of non-
3 traditional coals. Overall, the goal is to effectively comply with emissions
4 regulations and provide the optimal total-cost solution for operation of the unit.

5 The Company will continue to leverage new technologies and chemicals to meet
6 both present and future state and federal emissions requirements including the
7 Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (“MATS”) rule. Company witness Harrington
8 provides the cost information for DEP’s chemical use and forecast.

9 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

10 A. Yes, it does.

1 (WHEREUPON, Church Exhibits 1 and
2 2 are marked for identification as
3 prefiled and received into
4 evidence.)

5 (WHEREUPON, the prefiled direct
6 testimony of KENNETH D. CHURCH is
7 copied into the record as if given
8 orally from the stand.)
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BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1204

In the Matter of)
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC)
Pursuant to G.S. 62-133.2 and NCUC Rule)
R8-55 Relating to Fuel and Fuel-Related)
Charge Adjustments for Electric Utilities)

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
KENNETH D. CHURCH FOR
DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS,
LLC**



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

2 A. My name is Kenneth D. Church and my business address is 526 South Church Street,
3 Charlotte, North Carolina.

4 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

5 A. I am the General Manager of Nuclear Fuel Engineering for Duke Energy Progress,
6 LLC (“DEP” or the “Company”) and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (“DEC”).

7 **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES AT DEP?**

8 A. I am responsible for nuclear fuel procurement and spent fuel management, as well as
9 the fuel mechanical design, reactor core design, probabilistic risk assessment, and
10 safety analysis for the nuclear units owned and operated by DEP and DEC.

11 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND**
12 **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

13 A. I graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science degree
14 in mechanical engineering. I began my career with DEC in 1991 as an engineer and
15 worked in various roles, including nuclear fuel assembly and control component
16 design, fuel performance, and fuel reload engineering. I assumed the commercial
17 responsibility for purchasing uranium, conversion services, enrichment services, and
18 fuel fabrication services at DEC in 2001. Beginning in 2011, I incrementally assumed
19 responsibility at DEC for spent nuclear fuel management along with the nuclear fuel
20 mechanical design and reload licensing analysis functions. Subsequently, I assumed
21 the same responsibilities for DEP following the merger between Duke Energy
22 Corporation and Progress Energy, Inc. before entering my current position in January
23 of 2019.

1 I have served as Chairman of the Nuclear Energy Institute's Utility Fuel
2 Committee, an association aimed at improving the economics and reliability of
3 nuclear fuel supply and use, and have also served as Chairman of the World Nuclear
4 Fuel Market's Board of Governors, an organization that promotes efficiencies in the
5 nuclear fuel markets. I am currently a registered professional engineer in the state of
6 North Carolina.

7 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS**
8 **PROCEEDING?**

9 A. The purpose of my testimony is to: (1) provide information regarding DEP's nuclear
10 fuel purchasing practices (2) provide costs for the April 1, 2018 through March 31,
11 2019 test period ("test period"), and (3) describe changes forthcoming for the
12 December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020 billing period ("billing period").

13 **Q. YOUR TESTIMONY INCLUDES TWO EXHIBITS. WERE THESE**
14 **EXHIBITS PREPARED BY YOU OR AT YOUR DIRECTION AND UNDER**
15 **YOUR SUPERVISION?**

16 A. Yes. These exhibits were prepared at my direction and under my supervision, and
17 consist of Church Exhibit 1, which is a Graphical Representation of the Nuclear Fuel
18 Cycle, and Church Exhibit 2, which sets forth the Company's Nuclear Fuel
19 Procurement Practices.

20 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMPONENTS THAT MAKE UP NUCLEAR**
21 **FUEL.**

22 A. In order to prepare uranium for use in a nuclear reactor, it must be processed from an
23 ore to a ceramic fuel pellet. This process is commonly broken into four distinct

1 industrial stages: (1) mining and milling; (2) conversion; (3) enrichment; and (4)
2 fabrication. This process is illustrated graphically in Church Exhibit 1.

3 Uranium is often mined by either surface (i.e., open cut) or underground
4 mining techniques, depending on the depth of the ore deposit. The ore is then sent to
5 a mill where it is crushed and ground-up before the uranium is extracted by leaching,
6 the process in which either a strong acid or alkaline solution is used to dissolve the
7 uranium. Once dried, the uranium oxide (“U₃O₈”) concentrate – often referred to as
8 yellowcake – is packed in drums for transport to a conversion facility. Alternatively,
9 uranium may be mined by in situ leach (“ISL”) in which oxygenated groundwater is
10 circulated through a very porous ore body to dissolve the uranium and bring it to the
11 surface. ISL may also use slightly acidic or alkaline solutions to keep the uranium in
12 solution. The uranium is then recovered from the solution in a mill to produce U₃O₈.

13 After milling, the U₃O₈ must be chemically converted into uranium
14 hexafluoride (“UF₆”). This intermediate stage is known as conversion and produces
15 the feedstock required in the isotopic separation process.

16 Naturally occurring uranium primarily consists of two isotopes, 0.7%
17 Uranium-235 (“U-235”) and 99.3% Uranium-238. Most of this country’s nuclear
18 reactors (including those of the Company) require U-235 concentrations in the 3-5%
19 range to operate a complete cycle of 18 to 24 months between refueling outages. The
20 process of increasing the concentration of U-235 is known as enrichment. Gas
21 centrifuge is the primary technology used by the commercial enrichment suppliers.
22 This process first applies heat to the UF₆ to create a gas. Then, using the mass
23 differences between the uranium isotopes, the natural uranium is separated into two

1 gas streams, one being enriched to the desired level of U-235, known as low enriched
2 uranium, and the other being depleted in U-235, known as tails.

3 Once the UF₆ is enriched to the desired level, it is converted to uranium
4 dioxide powder and formed into pellets. This process and subsequent steps of
5 inserting the fuel pellets into fuel rods and bundling the rods into fuel assemblies for
6 use in nuclear reactors is referred to as fabrication.

7 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF DEP'S NUCLEAR FUEL**
8 **PROCUREMENT PRACTICES.**

9 A. As set forth in Church Exhibit 2, DEP's nuclear fuel procurement practices involve
10 computing near and long-term consumption forecasts, establishing nuclear system
11 inventory levels, projecting required annual fuel purchases, requesting proposals from
12 qualified suppliers, negotiating a portfolio of long-term contracts from diverse sources
13 of supply, and monitoring deliveries against contract commitments.

14 For uranium concentrates, conversion, and enrichment services, long-term
15 contracts are used extensively in the industry to cover forward requirements and
16 ensure security of supply. Throughout the industry, the initial delivery under new
17 long-term contracts commonly occurs several years after contract execution. DEP
18 relies extensively on long-term contracts to cover the largest portion of its forward
19 requirements. By staggering long-term contracts over time for these components of
20 the nuclear fuel cycle, DEP's purchases within a given year consist of a blend of
21 contract prices negotiated at many different periods in the markets, which has the
22 effect of mitigating DEP's exposure to price volatility. Diversifying fuel suppliers
23 reduces DEP's exposure to possible disruptions from any single source of supply. Due

1 to the technical complexities of changing fabrication services suppliers, DEP
2 generally sources these services to a single domestic supplier on a plant-by-plant basis
3 using multi-year contracts.

4 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE DEP'S DELIVERED COST OF NUCLEAR FUEL**
5 **DURING THE TEST PERIOD.**

6 A. Staggering long-term contracts over time for each of the components of the nuclear
7 fuel cycle means DEP's purchases within a given year consist of a blend of contract
8 prices negotiated at many different periods in the markets. DEP mitigates the impact
9 of market volatility on the portfolio of supply contracts by using a mixture of pricing
10 mechanisms. Consistent with its portfolio approach to contracting, DEP entered into
11 several long-term contracts during the test period.

12 DEP's portfolio of diversified contract pricing yielded an average unit cost of
13 \$41.38 per pound for uranium concentrates during the test period, representing an
14 increase of 42% per pound from the prior test period. This increase was primarily due
15 to the purchase of low cost uranium available in the spot market during the prior test
16 period.

17 A majority of DEP's enrichment purchases during the test period were
18 delivered under long-term contracts negotiated prior to the test period. The average
19 unit cost of DEP's purchases of enrichment services during the test period decreased
20 8% to \$93.22 per Separative Work Unit.

21 Delivered costs for fabrication and conversion services have a limited impact
22 on the overall fuel expense rate given that the dollar amounts for these purchases
23 represent a substantially smaller percentage – 22% and 5%, respectively, for the fuel

1 batches recently loaded into DEP's reactors – of DEP's total direct fuel cost relative
2 to uranium concentrates or enrichment, which each represent 43% and 30%,
3 respectively, of the total.

4 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE LATEST TRENDS IN NUCLEAR FUEL**
5 **MARKET CONDITIONS.**

6 A. Prices in the uranium concentrate markets remain relatively low due to reduced
7 demand following the March 2011 event at Fukushima. Industry consultants believe
8 that recent production cutbacks have been warranted due to the previously existing
9 oversupply conditions and that market prices need to increase in the longer term to
10 provide the economic incentive for the exploration, mine construction, and production
11 necessary to support future industry uranium requirements.

12 Market prices for enrichment and conversion services have recently increased
13 primarily due to a reduction in available inventory supplies.

14 Fabrication is not a service for which prices are published; however, industry
15 consultants expect fabrication prices will continue to generally trend upward.

16 **Q. WHAT CHANGES DO YOU SEE IN DEP'S NUCLEAR FUEL COST IN THE**
17 **BILLING PERIOD?**

18 A. The Company anticipates a decrease in nuclear fuel costs on a cents per kilowatt hour
19 ("kWh") basis through the next billing period. Because fuel is typically expensed over
20 two to three operating cycles (roughly three to six years), DEP's nuclear fuel expense
21 in the upcoming billing period will be determined by the cost of fuel assemblies loaded
22 into the reactors during the test period, as well as prior periods. The fuel residing in
23 the reactors during the billing period will have been obtained under historical contracts

1 negotiated in various market conditions. Each of these contracts contribute to a
2 portion of the uranium, conversion, enrichment, and fabrication costs reflected in the
3 total fuel expense.

4 The average fuel expense is expected to decrease from 0.656 cents per kWh
5 incurred in the test period, to approximately 0.617 cents per kWh in the billing period.
6 This change reflects the discharge of fuel with a higher cost basis from the reactors
7 and its replacement with fuel procured under new contracts negotiated in lower
8 markets.

9 **Q. WHAT STEPS IS DEP TAKING TO PROVIDE STABILITY IN ITS**
10 **NUCLEAR FUEL COSTS AND TO MITIGATE PRICE INCREASES IN THE**
11 **VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF NUCLEAR FUEL?**

12 A. As I discussed earlier and as described in Church Exhibit 2, for uranium concentrates,
13 conversion, and enrichment services, DEP relies extensively on staggered long-term
14 contracts to cover the largest portion of its forward requirements. By staggering long-
15 term contracts over time and incorporating a range of pricing mechanisms, DEP's
16 purchases within a given year consist of a blend of contract prices negotiated at many
17 different periods in the markets, which has the effect of mitigating DEP's exposure to
18 price volatility.

19 Although costs of certain components of nuclear fuel are expected to increase
20 in future years, nuclear fuel costs on a cents per kWh basis will likely continue to be
21 a fraction of the cents per kWh cost of fossil fuel. Therefore, customers will continue
22 to benefit from DEP's diverse generation mix and the strong performance of its

1 nuclear fleet through lower fuel costs than would otherwise result absent the
2 significant contribution of nuclear generation to meeting customers' demands.

3 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

4 **A.** Yes, it does.

1 (WHEREUPON, Henderson Confidential
2 Exhibit 1 is marked for
3 identification as prefiled and
4 received into evidence.)

5 (WHEREUPON, the prefiled direct
6 testimony of KELVIN HENDERSON is
7 copied into the record as if given
8 orally from the stand.)
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BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1204

In the Matter of)	
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC)	DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
Pursuant to G.S. 62-133.2 and NCUC Rule)	KELVIN HENDERSON FOR
R8-55 Relating to Fuel and Fuel-Related)	DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC
Charge Adjustments for Electric Utilities)	

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

2 A. My name is Kelvin Henderson and my business address is 526 South Church Street,
3 Charlotte, North Carolina.

4 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

5 A. I am Senior Vice President of Nuclear Operations for Duke Energy Corporation
6 (“Duke Energy”) with direct executive accountability for Duke Energy’s North
7 Carolina nuclear stations, including Duke Energy Progress, LLC’s (“DEP” or the
8 “Company”) Brunswick Nuclear Station (“Brunswick”) in Brunswick County,
9 North Carolina, the Harris Nuclear Station (“Harris”) in Wake County, North
10 Carolina, and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC’s (“DEC”) McGuire Nuclear Station,
11 located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

12 **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**
13 **OF NUCLEAR OPERATIONS?**

14 A. As Senior Vice President of Nuclear Operations, I am responsible for providing
15 oversight for the safe and reliable operation of Duke Energy’s nuclear stations in
16 North Carolina. I am also involved in the operations of Duke Energy’s other nuclear
17 stations, including DEP’s Robinson Nuclear Station (“Robinson”) located in
18 Darlington County, South Carolina.

19 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND**
20 **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

21 A. I have a Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Bradley University and
22 over 27 years of nuclear energy experience with increasing responsibilities. My
23 nuclear career began at Commonwealth Edison’s Zion Nuclear Station in Illinois

1 where I received a senior reactor operator license from the Nuclear Regulatory
2 Commission (“NRC”) and served as a control room unit supervisor. In 1998, I
3 joined Progress Energy in the operations department at the Harris Nuclear Station.
4 After serving in various leadership roles in Operations, Work Management, and
5 Maintenance, I was named plant manager at Harris. In 2011, I was named general
6 manager of nuclear fleet operations for Progress Energy. Following the Duke
7 Progress merger in 2012, I became site vice president of DEC’s Catawba Nuclear
8 Station in York County, South Carolina. In 2016, I was named senior vice president
9 of corporate nuclear, and I assumed my current role as Senior Vice President of
10 Nuclear Operations in December 2017.

11 **Q. HAVE YOU TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMISSION IN ANY PRIOR**
12 **PROCEEDINGS?**

13 A. Yes, I provided testimony in DEP’s 2018 fuel case proceeding in Docket No. E-2,
14 Sub 1173.

15 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS**
16 **PROCEEDING?**

17 A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe and discuss the performance of
18 Brunswick, Harris, and Robinson for the period of April 1, 2018 through March 31,
19 2019 (the “test period”). I will provide information about refueling outages for the
20 test period and also discuss the nuclear capacity factor being proposed by DEP for
21 use in this proceeding in determining the fuel factor to be reflected in rates during
22 the billing period of December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020 (“billing
23 period”).

1 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE EXHIBIT 1 INCLUDED WITH YOUR TESTIMONY.**

2 A. Exhibit 1 is a confidential exhibit outlining the planned schedule for refueling
3 outages for DEP's nuclear units through the billing period. This exhibit represents
4 DEP's current plan, which is subject to adjustment due to changes in operational and
5 maintenance requirements.

6 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE DEP'S NUCLEAR GENERATION PORTFOLIO.**

7 A. The Company's nuclear generation portfolio consists of approximately 3,575¹
8 megawatts ("MWs") of generating capacity, made up as follows:

9 Brunswick - 1,870 MWs

10 Harris - 964 MWs

11 Robinson - 741 MWs

12 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DEP'S NUCLEAR**
13 **GENERATION ASSETS.**

14 A. The Company's nuclear fleet consists of three generating stations and a total of four
15 units. Brunswick is a boiling water reactor facility with two units and was the first
16 nuclear plant built in North Carolina. Unit 2 began commercial operation in 1975,
17 followed by Unit 1 in 1977. The operating licenses for Brunswick were renewed in
18 2006 by the NRC, extending operations up to 2036 and 2034 for Units 1 and 2,
19 respectively. Harris is a single unit pressurized water reactor that began commercial
20 operation in 1987. The NRC issued a renewed license for Harris in 2008, extending
21 operation up to 2046. Robinson is also a single unit pressurized water reactor that

¹ As of January 1, 2019.

1 began commercial operation in 1971. The license renewal for Robinson Unit 2 was
2 issued by the NRC in 2004, extending operation up to 2030.

3 **Q. WERE THERE ANY CAPACITY CHANGES WITHIN DEP'S NUCLEAR**
4 **PORTFOLIO DURING THE TEST PERIOD?**

5 A. Yes. Efficiency gains from the replacement of the Harris low pressure turbine in the
6 spring of 2018 increased the capacity of the unit. After seasonal observations and
7 validation testing, the Harris maximum dependable capacity ("MDC") was increased
8 by 32 MWs to 964 MWs effective January 1, 2019. The winter capability rating
9 was also increased, adding 29 MWs to the unit's winter capability.

10 **Q. WHAT ARE DEP'S OBJECTIVES IN THE OPERATION OF ITS**
11 **NUCLEAR GENERATION ASSETS?**

12 A. The primary objective of DEP's nuclear generation department is to safely provide
13 reliable and cost-effective electricity to DEP's customers in North and South
14 Carolina. The Company achieves this objective by focusing on a number of key
15 areas. Operations personnel and other station employees receive extensive,
16 comprehensive training and execute their responsibilities to the highest standards in
17 accordance with detailed procedures that are continually updated to ensure best
18 practices. The Company maintains station equipment and systems reliably, and
19 ensures timely implementation of work plans and projects that enhance the
20 performance of systems, equipment, and personnel. Station refueling and
21 maintenance outages are conducted through the execution of well-planned, well-
22 executed, and high-quality work activities, which ensure that the plant is prepared
23 for operation until the next planned outage.

1 **Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE PERFORMANCE OF DEP'S NUCLEAR FLEET**
2 **DURING THE TEST PERIOD.**

3 A. The Company operated its nuclear stations in a reasonable and prudent manner
4 during the test period, providing approximately 46% of the total power generated by
5 DEP. The four nuclear units operated at an actual system average capacity factor of
6 89.21% during the test period, which included three refueling outages.² Output from
7 three of the four DEP nuclear units was significantly impacted during the test period
8 by Hurricane Florence. Consistent with site procedures, both Brunswick units were
9 taken offline prior to the expected landfall of Hurricane Florence. Brunswick Unit 1
10 was offline for 8.8 days and Unit 2 was offline for 6.3 days. After the Federal
11 Emergency Management Agency ensured normal emergency recovery capabilities
12 had been restored in the area, both Brunswick units returned to service.
13 Additionally, the availability of Robinson was impacted by Hurricane Florence. As
14 described later in my testimony, the Robinson refueling outage, which began one
15 week after the hurricane's landfall, was impacted by resource constraints directly
16 attributable to the hurricane and its aftermath.

17 The performance results discussed in my testimony demonstrate DEP's
18 continued commitment to achieving high performance without compromising safety
19 and reliability.

20 **Q. HOW DOES THE PERFORMANCE OF DEP'S NUCLEAR FLEET**
21 **COMPARE TO INDUSTRY AVERAGES?**

² Brunswick Unit 2 entered a refueling outage on March 2, 2019 and remained offline at the end of the test period.

1 A. The Company's nuclear fleet has a history of exceptional performance that
2 consistently exceeds industry averages. The most recently published North
3 American Electric Reliability Council's ("NERC") Generating Unit Statistical
4 Brochure ("NERC Brochure") indicates an industry average capacity factor of
5 91.8% for comparable units for the five-year period 2013 through 2017. During the
6 five-year period ending March 31, 2019, DEP's nuclear fleet achieved an average
7 capacity factor of 93.29% compared to the industry average of 91.8%. DEP's two-
8 year average³ of 92.44% also exceeded the NERC comparable average of 91.8%.
9 The Company's test period capacity factor of 89.21%, impacted by Hurricane
10 Florence, fell just below the industry five-year average.

11 **Q. WHAT IMPACTS A UNIT'S AVAILABILITY AND WHAT IS DEP'S**
12 **PHILOSOPHY FOR SCHEDULING REFUELING AND MAINTENANCE**
13 **OUTAGES?**

14 A. In general, refueling requirements, maintenance requirements, prudent maintenance
15 practices, and NRC operating requirements impact the availability of DEP's nuclear
16 system. Prior to a planned outage, DEP develops a detailed schedule for the outage
17 including major tasks to be performed along with sub-schedules for particular
18 activities.

19 The Company's scheduling philosophy is to plan for a best possible outcome
20 for each outage activity within the outage plan. For example, if the "best ever" time
21 a particular outage task was performed is 10 days, then 10 days or less becomes the
22 goal for that task in each subsequent outage. Those individual goals are

³ This represents the simple average for the current test period and prior test period of 12 months ended March 2018 for the DEP nuclear fleet.

1 incorporated into an overall outage schedule. The Company aggressively works to
2 meet, and measures itself against, that schedule. Further, to minimize potential
3 impacts to outage schedules, “discovery activities” (walk-downs, inspections, etc.)
4 are scheduled at the earliest opportunities so that any maintenance or repairs
5 identified through those activities can be promptly incorporated into the outage plan.
6 Those discovery activities also have pre-planned contingency actions to ensure that,
7 when incorporated into the schedule, the activities required for appropriate repair
8 can be performed as efficiently as possible.

9 As noted, the Company uses the schedule for measuring outage planning and
10 execution, and driving continuous improvement efforts. However, in order to
11 provide reasonable, rather than best ever, total outage time for planning purposes,
12 particularly with the dispatch and system operating center functions, DEP also
13 develops an allocation of outage time which incorporates reasonable schedule losses.
14 The development of each outage allocation is dependent on maintenance and repair
15 activities included in the outage, as well as major projects to be implemented during
16 the outage. Both schedule and allocation are set aggressively to drive continuous
17 improvement in outage planning and execution.

18 **Q. HOW DOES DEP HANDLE OUTAGE EXTENSIONS AND FORCED**
19 **OUTAGES?**

20 A. When an outage extension becomes necessary, DEP seeks to ensure that work
21 completed in the extension results in longer continuous run times and fewer forced
22 outages, thereby reducing fuel costs in the long run. Therefore, if an unanticipated
23 issue that has the potential to become an on-line reliability issue is discovered while

1 a unit is off-line for a scheduled outage and repair cannot be completed within the
2 planned work window, the outage is usually extended to perform necessary
3 maintenance or repairs prior to returning the unit to service. In the event that a unit
4 is forced off-line, every effort is made to safely perform the repair and return the unit
5 to service as quickly as possible.

6 **Q. DOES DEP PERFORM POST-OUTAGE CRITIQUES AND CAUSE**
7 **ANALYSES FOR INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS?**

8 A. Yes. DEP applies self-critical analysis to each outage and, using the benefit of
9 hindsight, identifies every potential cause of an outage delay or event resulting in a
10 forced or extended outage, and applies lessons learned to drive continuous
11 improvement. The Company also evaluates the performance of each function and
12 discipline involved in outage planning and execution in order to identify areas in
13 which it can utilize a self-critical analysis to drive further improvement efforts.

14 **Q. IS SUCH ANALYSES INTENDED TO ASSESS OR MAKE A**
15 **DETERMINATION REGARDING THE PRUDENCE OR**
16 **REASONABLENESS OF A PARTICULAR ACTION OR DECISION?**

17 A. No. Given this focus on identifying opportunities for improvement, these critiques
18 and cause analyses are not intended to document the broader context of the outage
19 nor do they make any attempt to assess whether the actions taken were reasonable in
20 light of what was known at the time of the events in question. Instead, the reports
21 utilize hindsight (*e.g.*, subsequent developments or information not known at the
22 time) to identify every potential cause of the incident in question. However, such a

1 review is quite different from evaluating whether the actions or decisions in question
2 were reasonable given the circumstances that existed at that time.

3 **Q. WHAT REFUELING OUTAGES WERE COMPLETED AT DEP'S**
4 **NUCLEAR FACILITIES DURING THE TEST PERIOD?**

5 A. There were two refueling outages completed during the test period: Harris and
6 Robinson.

7 The Harris spring refueling outage began on April 7, 2018. In addition to
8 refueling activities, safety, regulatory projects and reliability enhancements were
9 completed. Safety and regulatory work included reactor vessel head inspections and
10 repair, and reactor vessel in-service inspections. Replacement of the station's low-
11 pressure turbine addressed the aging of the existing turbine and mitigated the free-
12 standing blade root cracking concerns. The new turbine also improved thermal
13 efficiency and added 32 MWs to the station's capacity. After testing and validation
14 during 2018, the station's maximum dependable capacity was increased by 32 MWs
15 to 964 MWs effective January 1, 2019. The station also completed installation of a
16 new turbine control system. The new system addresses equipment obsolescence and
17 single-point vulnerabilities, enhancing the reliability of the station. Other reliability
18 work included refurbishment of the "B" reactor coolant pump motor and seals, "A"
19 heater drain pump and motor, and overhaul of the auxiliary feed water turbine. All
20 outage goals were met, and outage dose was the lowest ever recorded for a Harris
21 refueling outage. After refueling, projects, maintenance, and inspection activity
22 completed, the unit returned to service on May 10, 2018; a duration of 33.8 days
23 compared to a schedule allocation of 37 days.

1 The Robinson refueling outage was originally scheduled to begin on
2 September 15, 2018, just one day after Hurricane Florence made landfall along
3 North Carolina's southeast coast. The outage start was delayed by one week, and on
4 September 22, 2018, Robinson entered the fall refueling outage. In addition to
5 refueling activities, significant safety, regulatory, and reliability enhancements were
6 completed. Regulatory and safety enhancements included the transmission upgrade
7 project ("TUP") and modifications required to transition to the NFPA 805.
8 Significant activities associated with the TUP included replacement of the 115KV
9 startup transformer, addition of a second 230KV startup transformer, and upgrades to
10 the 4KV bus and transmission lines. The TUP provides the station with a second
11 off-site power path, aligning the station with the current industry standard for U.S.
12 nuclear plants. NFPA 805 modifications included replacement of refueling water
13 storage tank discharge valves, residual heat removal loop isolation valves, and loops
14 "B" and "C" hotleg shutoff valves. Numerous new motor control centers and
15 distribution panels were also installed as part of the NFPA 805 modifications. A
16 main power open phase detection modification was also completed. This system
17 improves safety margins related to offsite power by providing a fully redundant open
18 phase protection system.

19 Reliability enhancements included the replacement of both low-pressure
20 turbines, which addressed blade design issues that have impacted generation since
21 2012. The Siemens low-pressure turbines were replaced under warranty. Other
22 reliability enhancements included replacement of the "B" reactor coolant pump

1 motor and seal replacements on “A”, “B”, and “C” pumps. The “B” heater drain
2 pump was also replaced.

3 After refueling, maintenance, projects and inspection activities were
4 completed, the unit returned to service on November 26, 2018. The 65-day outage
5 extended beyond the schedule allocation of 37 days, with the overrun primarily
6 attributable to direct impacts on resource availability related to Hurricane Florence
7 and challenges with the complex transmission upgrade project.

8 **Q. WHAT CAPACITY FACTOR DOES DEP PROPOSE TO USE IN**
9 **DETERMINING THE FUEL FACTOR FOR THE BILLING PERIOD?**

10 A. The Company proposes to use a 94.62% capacity factor, which is a reasonable value
11 for use in this proceeding based upon the operational history of DEP’s nuclear units
12 and the number of planned outage days scheduled during the billing period. This
13 proposed percentage is reflected in the testimony and exhibits of Company witness
14 Harrington and exceeds the five-year industry weighted average capacity factor of
15 91.8% for comparable units as reported in the NERC Brochure during the period of
16 2013 to 2017.

17 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

18 A. Yes, it does.

1 MR. JIRAK: And, in addition, we would like
2 to move the Application itself into the record as
3 well.

4 CHAIR MITCHELL: The motion is allowed.

5 (WHEREUPON, Application by Duke
6 Energy Progress is received into
7 evidence.)

8 MR. JIRAK: Thank you. At this time I would
9 call to the witness stand Brett Phipps on behalf of
10 Duke Energy Progress.

11 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good afternoon, Mr. Phipps.

12 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon.

13 BRETT PHIPPS;

14 having been duly sworn,

15 testified as follows:

16 CHAIR MITCHELL: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Pull that microphone
18 towards you.

19 THE WITNESS: I speak a little louder but
20 I'll make sure --

21 COMMISSIONER GRAY: I'm still old.

22 THE WITNESS: I got you. Hopefully that's
23 better.

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JIRAK:

1 Q Mr. Phipps, will you please begin by stating your
2 full name and title for the record?

3 A My name is Brett Phipps. I'm the Managing
4 Director of fuel procurement.

5 Q Thank you. Mr. Phipps, did you prepare and cause
6 to be filed in this proceeding direct testimony
7 consisting of eight pages of testimony and three
8 exhibits?

9 A I did.

10 Q And, Mr. Phipps, do you have any changes to make
11 to your direct testimony at this time?

12 A I do. On page 6, line 18 of my testimony, the
13 value that's there of \$66.12 should be updated to
14 reflect \$65.43.

15 Q Thank you. And, Mr. Phipps, aside from that
16 correction, if I were to ask you the same
17 questions contained in your testimony today,
18 would your answers remain the same?

19 A Yes.

20 MR. JIRAK: Chair Mitchell, at this time I
21 would request that the prefiled direct testimony and
22 exhibits and workpapers (sic) of Brett Phipps be
23 copied into the record as if given orally from the
24 stand.

1 CHAIR MITCHELL: The motion is allowed
2 filed.

3 (WHEREUPON, Phipps Exhibits 1 and
4 2 and Phipps Confidential Exhibit
5 3 are marked for identification as
6 prefiled.)

7 (WHEREUPON, the prefiled direct
8 testimony of BRETT PHIPPS is
9 copied into the record as if given
10 orally from the stand.)

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BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1204

In the Matter of)	
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC)	DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
Pursuant to G.S. 62-133.2 and NCUC Rule)	BRETT PHIPPS FOR
R8-55 Relating to Fuel and Fuel-Related)	DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC
Charge Adjustments for Electric Utilities)	

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

2 A. My name is Brett Phipps. My business address is 526 South Church Street,
3 Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

4 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

5 A. I am employed as Managing Director, Fuel Procurement, for Duke Energy
6 Corporation (“Duke Energy”). In that capacity, I directly manage the organization
7 responsible for the purchase and delivery of coal and natural gas to Duke Energy’s
8 regulated generation fleet, including Duke Energy Progress, LLC (“Duke Energy
9 Progress,” “DEP,” or the “Company”) and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (“DEC”)
10 (collectively, the “Utilities,” or the “Companies”). In addition to fuels, I also
11 supervise the procurement of all reagents.

12 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL**
13 **EXPERIENCE.**

14 A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Marshall University. I
15 began in the mining industry in 1993 where I held various roles associated with
16 surface mining operations. I joined Progress Energy in 1999, holding roles in
17 terminal operations and sales and marketing for the unregulated business. I
18 transitioned to the regulated utility in 2005 where I worked in various fuels
19 procurement functions and leadership roles. I joined Duke Energy in July 2012
20 and am currently Managing Director, Fuels Procurement. I am on the Board of
21 Directors of the American Coal Council, and am a member of the The Coal
22 Institute, the Lexington Coal Exchange, Southern Gas Association, and the
23 American Gas Association.

24 **Q. HAVE YOU TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMISSION IN ANY PRIOR**

1 **PROCEEDING?**

2 A. Yes. I testified in support of DEP's 2016 fuel and fuel-related cost recovery
3 application in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1146 and in May of 2017, I adopted the
4 testimony filed by Swati V. Daji in support of DEC's 2016 fuel and fuel-related
5 cost recovery application in Docket No. E-7, Sub 1129.

6 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS**
7 **PROCEEDING?**

8 A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe DEP's fossil fuel purchasing practices,
9 provide actual fossil fuel costs for the period April 1, 2018 through March 31,
10 2019 ("test period") versus the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018
11 ("prior test period"), and describe changes projected for the billing period of
12 December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020 ("billing period").

13 **Q. YOUR TESTIMONY INCLUDES THREE EXHIBITS. WERE THESE**
14 **EXHIBITS PREPARED BY YOU OR AT YOUR DIRECTION AND**
15 **UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION?**

16 A. Yes. These exhibits were prepared at my direction and under my supervision, and
17 consist of Phipps Exhibit 1, which summarizes the Company's Fossil Fuel
18 Procurement Practices, Phipps Exhibit 2, which summarizes total monthly natural
19 gas purchases and monthly contract and spot coal purchases for the test period and
20 prior test period, and Phipps Exhibit 3, which summarizes the fuels related
21 transactional activity between DEC and Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.
22 ("Piedmont") for spot commodity transactions during the test period, as required
23 by the Merger Agreement between Duke Energy and Piedmont, of which DEP

1 receives an allocated portion based on its pro rata share of the overall gas plant
2 burns for the respective month.

3 **Q. HOW DOES DEP OPERATE ITS PORTFOLIO OF GENERATION**
4 **ASSETS TO RELIABLY AND ECONOMICALLY SERVE ITS**
5 **CUSTOMERS?**

6 A. Both DEP and DEC utilize the same process to ensure that the assets of the
7 Companies are reliably and economically committed and dispatched to serve their
8 respective customers. To that end, both companies consider numerous factors
9 such as the latest forecasted fuel prices, transportation rates, planned maintenance
10 and refueling outages at the generating units, generating unit performance
11 parameters, and expected market conditions associated with power purchases and
12 off-system sales opportunities in order to determine the most economic and
13 reliable means of serving their respective customers.

14 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMPANY'S DELIVERED COST OF COAL**
15 **AND NATURAL GAS DURING THE TEST PERIOD.**

16 A. The Company's average delivered cost of coal per ton for the test period was
17 \$84.81 per ton, compared to \$80.82 per ton in the prior test period, representing
18 an increase of approximately 5%. This includes an average transportation cost of
19 \$32.72 per ton in the test period, compared to \$29.42 per ton in the prior test
20 period, representing an increase of approximately 11%. The Company's average
21 price of gas purchased for the test period was \$4.05 per Million British Thermal
22 Units ("MMBtu"), compared to \$4.68 per MMBtu in the prior test period,
23 representing a decrease of approximately 13%. The cost of gas is inclusive of gas
24 supply, transportation, storage and financial hedging.

1 DEP's coal burn for the test period was 3.6 million tons, compared to a
2 coal burn of 3.9 million tons in the prior test period, representing a decrease of
3 approximately 7%. The Company's natural gas burn for the test period was
4 182.4million MMBtu, compared to a gas burn of 169.4 million MMBtu in the
5 prior test period, representing an increase of approximately 8%. The primary
6 contributing factors were changes in (1) weather driven demand, and (2)
7 commodity prices.

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE LATEST TRENDS IN COAL AND NATURAL**
9 **GAS MARKET CONDITIONS.**

10 A. Coal markets continue to be in a state of flux due to a number of factors, including:
11 (1) uncertainty around proposed, imposed, and stayed U.S. Environmental
12 Protection Agency ("EPA") regulations for power plants; (2) continued abundant
13 natural gas supply and storage resulting in lower natural gas prices, which has
14 lowered overall domestic coal demand; (3) continued changes in global market
15 demand for both steam and metallurgical coal; (4) uncertainty surrounding
16 regulations for mining operations; and (5) tightening supply as bankruptcies,
17 consolidations and company reorganizations have allowed coal suppliers to
18 restructure and settle into new, lower on-going production levels.

19 With respect to natural gas, the nation's natural gas supply has grown
20 significantly over the last several years and producers continue to enhance
21 production techniques, enhance efficiencies, and lower production costs. Natural
22 gas prices are reflective of the dynamics between supply and demand factors, and
23 in the short term, such dynamics are influenced primarily by seasonal weather
24 demand and overall storage inventory balances. In addition, there continues to be

1 growth in the natural gas pipeline infrastructure needed to serve increased market
2 demand. However, pipeline infrastructure permitting and regulatory process
3 approval efforts are taking longer due to increased reviews and interventions,
4 which can delay and change planned pipeline construction and commissioning
5 timing.

6 Over the longer term planning horizon, natural gas supply is projected to
7 continue to increase along with the needed pipeline infrastructure to move the
8 growing supply to meet demand related to power generation, liquefied natural gas
9 exports and pipeline exports to Mexico.

10 **Q. WHAT ARE THE PROJECTED COAL AND NATURAL GAS**
11 **CONSUMPTIONS AND COSTS FOR THE BILLING PERIOD?**

12 A. DEP's current coal burn projection for the billing period is 4.4 million tons,
13 compared to 3.6 million tons consumed during the test period. DEP's billing
14 period projections for coal generation may be impacted due to changes from, but
15 not limited to, the following factors: (1) delivered natural gas prices versus the
16 average delivered cost of coal; (2) volatile power prices; and (3) electric demand.
17 Combining coal and transportation costs, DEP projects average delivered coal
18 costs of approximately \$66.12 per ton for the billing period compared to \$84.81
19 per ton in the test period. The lower projected cost is due, in part, to newly
20 negotiated rail transportation contracts that went into effect March 1, 2019. This
21 projected delivered cost, however, is subject to change based on, but not limited
22 to, the following factors: (1) exposure to market prices and their impact on open
23 coal positions; (2) the amount of non-Central Appalachian coal DEP is able to
24 consume; (3) performance of contract deliveries by suppliers and railroads which

1 may not occur despite DEP's strong contract compliance monitoring process; (4)
2 changes in transportation rates; and (5) potential additional costs associated with
3 suppliers' compliance with legal and statutory changes, the effects of which can
4 be passed on through coal contracts.

5 DEP's current natural gas burn projection for the billing period is
6 approximately 158.5 million MMBtu, which is a decrease from the 182.4 million
7 MMBtu consumed during the test period. The current average forward Henry
8 Hub price for the billing period is \$2.76 per MMBtu, compared to \$3.12 per
9 MMBtu in the test period. Projected natural gas burn volumes will vary based on
10 factors such as, but not limited to, changes in actual delivered fuel costs and
11 weather driven demand.

12 **Q. WHAT STEPS IS DEP TAKING TO MANAGE PORTFOLIO FUEL**
13 **COSTS?**

14 A. The Company continues to maintain a comprehensive coal and natural gas
15 procurement strategy that has proven successful over the years in limiting average
16 annual fuel price changes while actively managing the dynamic demands of its
17 fossil fuel generation fleet in a reliable and cost effective manner. With respect to
18 coal procurement, the Company's procurement strategy includes: (1) having an
19 appropriate mix of term contract and spot purchases for coal; (2) staggering coal
20 contract expirations in order to limit exposure to forward market price changes;
21 and (3) diversifying coal sourcing as economics warrant, as well as working with
22 coal suppliers to incorporate additional flexibility into their supply contracts. The
23 Company conducts spot market solicitations throughout the year to supplement
24 term contract purchases, taking into account changes in projected coal burns and

1 existing coal inventory levels.

2 The Company has implemented natural gas procurement practices that
3 include periodic Request for Proposals and shorter-term market engagement
4 activities to procure and actively manage a reliable, flexible, diverse, and
5 competitively priced natural gas supply. These procurement practices include
6 contracting for volumetric optionality in order to provide flexibility in responding
7 to changes in forecasted fuel consumption. Lastly, DEP continues to maintain a
8 short-term financial natural gas hedging plan to manage fuel cost risk for
9 customers via a disciplined, structured execution approach.

10 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

11 A. Yes, it does.

1 BY MR. JIRAK:

2 Q Mr. Phipps, have you prepared a summary of your
3 testimony?

4 A I have.

5 Q Please proceed.

6 (WHEREUPON, the summary of BRETT
7 PHIPPS is copied into the record
8 as read from the witness stand.)
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DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC
BRETT PHIPPS DIRECT TESTIMONY SUMMARY
DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1204

1 The purpose of my testimony is to describe DEP's fossil fuel purchasing
2 practices, provide actual fossil fuel costs for the test period, and describe changes
3 projected for the billing period.

4 DEP serves its customer by ensuring that its generating assets are reliably and
5 economically committed and dispatched. DEP considers numerous factors such as
6 the latest forecasted fuel prices, transportation rates, planned maintenance and
7 refueling outages at the generating units, generating unit performance parameters,
8 and expected market conditions associated with power purchases and off-system
9 sales opportunities in order to determine the most economic and reliable means of
10 serving customers.

11 Coal markets continue to be in a state of flux due to a number of factors. With
12 respect to natural gas, the nation's natural gas supply has grown significantly over
13 the last several years and producers continue to enhance production techniques,
14 enhance efficiencies, and lower production costs. The Company continues to
15 maintain a comprehensive coal and natural gas procurement strategy that has proven
16 successful over the years in limiting average annual fuel price changes while actively
17 managing the dynamic demands of its fossil fuel generation fleet in a reliable and
18 cost effective manner.

1 DEP's average delivered cost of coal per ton for the review period was \$84.81
2 per ton, compared to \$80.82 per ton in the prior review period, representing an
3 increase of approximately 5%. This includes an average transportation cost of
4 \$32.72 per ton in the review period, compared to \$29.42 per ton in the prior review
5 period, representing an increase of approximately 11%. The Company's average
6 cost of gas purchased for the review period was \$4.05 per million MBtu, as
7 compared to \$4.68 per million MBtu in the prior review period, representing a
8 decrease of approximately 13%. These costs include gas supply, transportation,
9 storage and financial hedging.

10 DEP's coal burn for the review period was 3.6 million tons, compared to a
11 coal burn of 3.9 million tons in the prior review period, representing a decline of
12 approximately 7%. The Company consumed approximately 182.4 million MBtu of
13 natural gas in the review period, compared to 169.4 million MBtu in the prior review
14 period, representing an increase of 8%. The primary contributing factors were
15 changes in weather driven demand and commodity prices. DEP's projections for the
16 billing period include approximately 4.4 million tons of coal and 158.5 million MBtu
17 of natural gas consumed. These projections are subject to change due to multiple
18 factors such as, but not limited to, changes in commodity prices and weather driven
19 demand.

20 This concludes my testimony summary.

1 MR. JIRAK: Chair Mitchell, the witness is
2 available for cross examination at this time. Now,
3 understanding that the first question is going to deal
4 with confidential information, I guess I would begin
5 by asking that anyone in the room here who has not
6 executed an acknowledgment of the confidentiality
7 agreement would please exit. I'm not necessarily --

8 MR. WEST: Actually, Jack, I apologize.
9 Gudrun and I talked very briefly and I have one or two
10 very quick questions that are public --

11 MR. JIRAK: Okay.

12 MR. WEST: -- as opposed to confidential.

13 MR. JIRAK: Okay.

14 MR. WEST: So, if it's okay, I'll begin.

15 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WEST:

16 Q Mr. Phipps, in your summary you said that coal
17 markets continue to be in a state of flux.

18 Please don't hurt your neck.

19 You're welcome to look forward and talk to the
20 Commission.

21 Is that a reference exclusively to
22 the variability of price in the coal market or
23 something else?

24 A It's multiple factors. In my expanded testimony

1 there is a -- it goes into expanded areas,
2 whether it's extended regulation; safety
3 regulations on the industry; production cost;
4 demand for the product; whether it be export or
5 domestic; price is a part of that as well; and
6 the financial health of the companies; and the
7 recent bankruptcies that's taken place.

8 Q Okay. Is the aggregation of those factors
9 leading to a -- some variability in price?

10 A Obviously, there's several factors. But, yes,
11 those are part of prices that impact the market.
12 It's a market-driven price and market demands.
13 We go after physical solicitations where it
14 solicits the market on a physical basis. But,
15 yes, those are not limited to but those are some
16 of the factors that impact price.

17 Q And can you tell us for approximately what period
18 the coal market has been in a state of flux,
19 meaning for a year, five years, a decade?

20 A I'm -- my observation is through -- it's been in
21 several years.

22 Q Can you be a little more specific than that?

23 A It's pretty broad. I -- you know, I'll expand.
24 So there has been periods of where it's very

1 healthy. I'm going to say it's cyclical in
2 nature. For instance, in 2008, it was a very
3 healthy couple of years for the industry. It was
4 a healthy export market and healthy demand. That
5 followed by lower gas prices in 2012, it really
6 drove the industry into some financial
7 challenges. Now, fast forward to last year,
8 domestically, coal is still on the decline
9 because of low natural gas and other generation
10 forms, but it was a healthy export market. So
11 the export markets, from a global perspective,
12 really benefited. Now, fast forward to today,
13 both domestic and export demand for coal is down;
14 therefore, that's the reason why you're seeing a
15 continued financial challenge and all the other
16 drivers. So I'm not trying to not answer your
17 question, it's just cyclical in nature over time.

18 Q But it sounds like, based on what you said, that
19 the cyclical nature of this flux could have
20 started as early as 2008. Did I
21 understand correctly?

22 A It actually has been -- actually it's been really
23 through a long time for the industry, you know,
24 even back to 2005 was a healthy timeframe for the

1 industry which was a decline. So I would say
2 over the last decade at least, if not more, it's
3 been cyclical in nature for the ups and downs.

4 MR. WEST: I don't have any further
5 questions. Thank you very much.

6 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. And I do have some
7 questions on confidential exhibits though. Sorry,
8 Mr. Jirak, you had started to address that.

9 MR. JIRAK: Right. So, again, I don't
10 necessarily recognize every single person in the room
11 but I believe the vast majority of the people have
12 executed or are with Public Staff or Duke. I don't
13 mean to call anyone out but, Gray Styers, I don't
14 know if --

15 MR. STYERS: I have not.

16 MR. JIRAK: So I think at this point you
17 probably need to leave the room. Again, based on my
18 recognition here I believe everyone else is either
19 with the Public Staff, with Duke, or has executed a
20 Confidentiality Agreement.

21 (WHEREUPON, the following is
22 confidential and shall be filed
23 under seal.)

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MS. THOMPSON: [REDACTED]

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CHAIR MITCHELL: [REDACTED]

MS. THOMPSON: [REDACTED]

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BY MS. THOMPSON:

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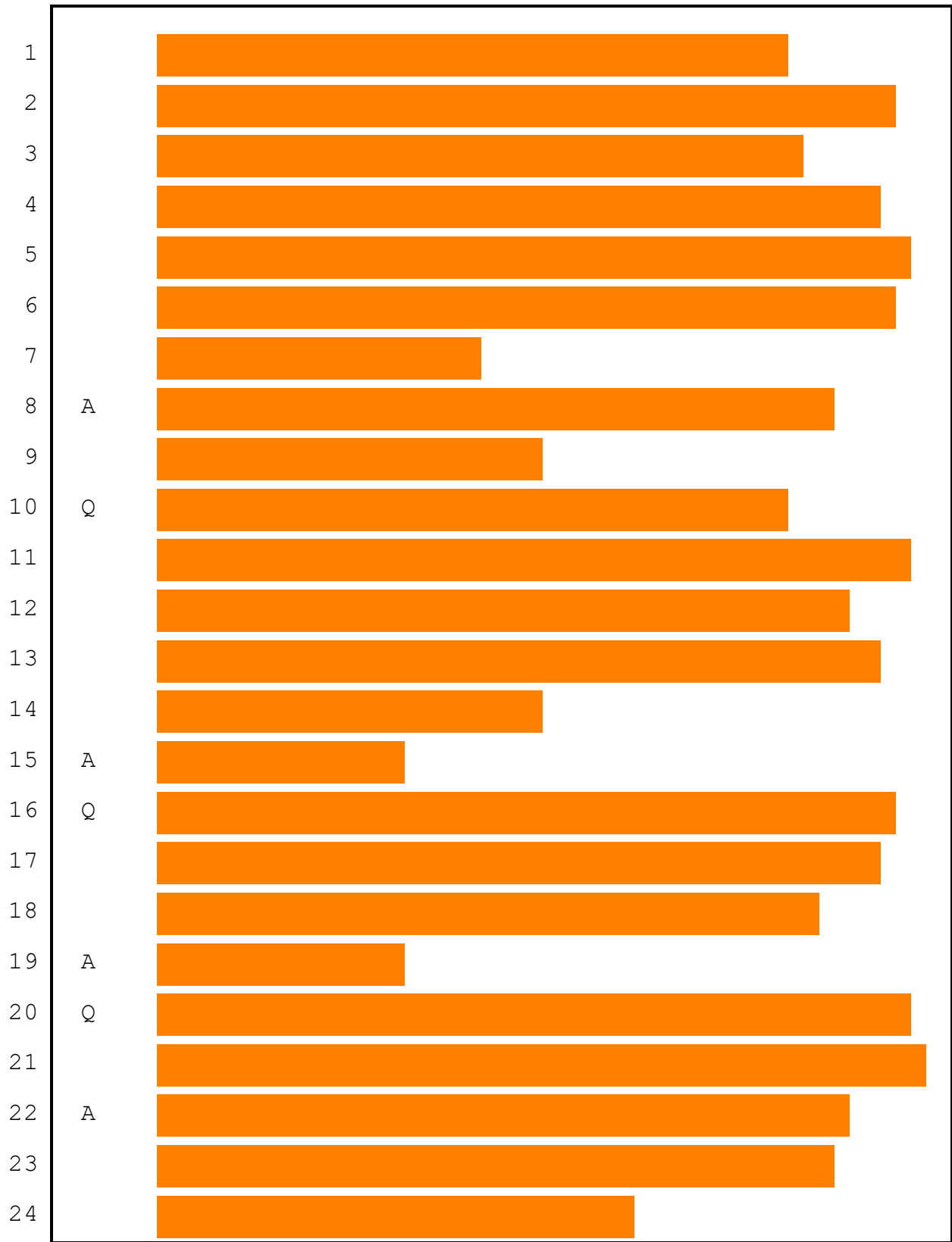
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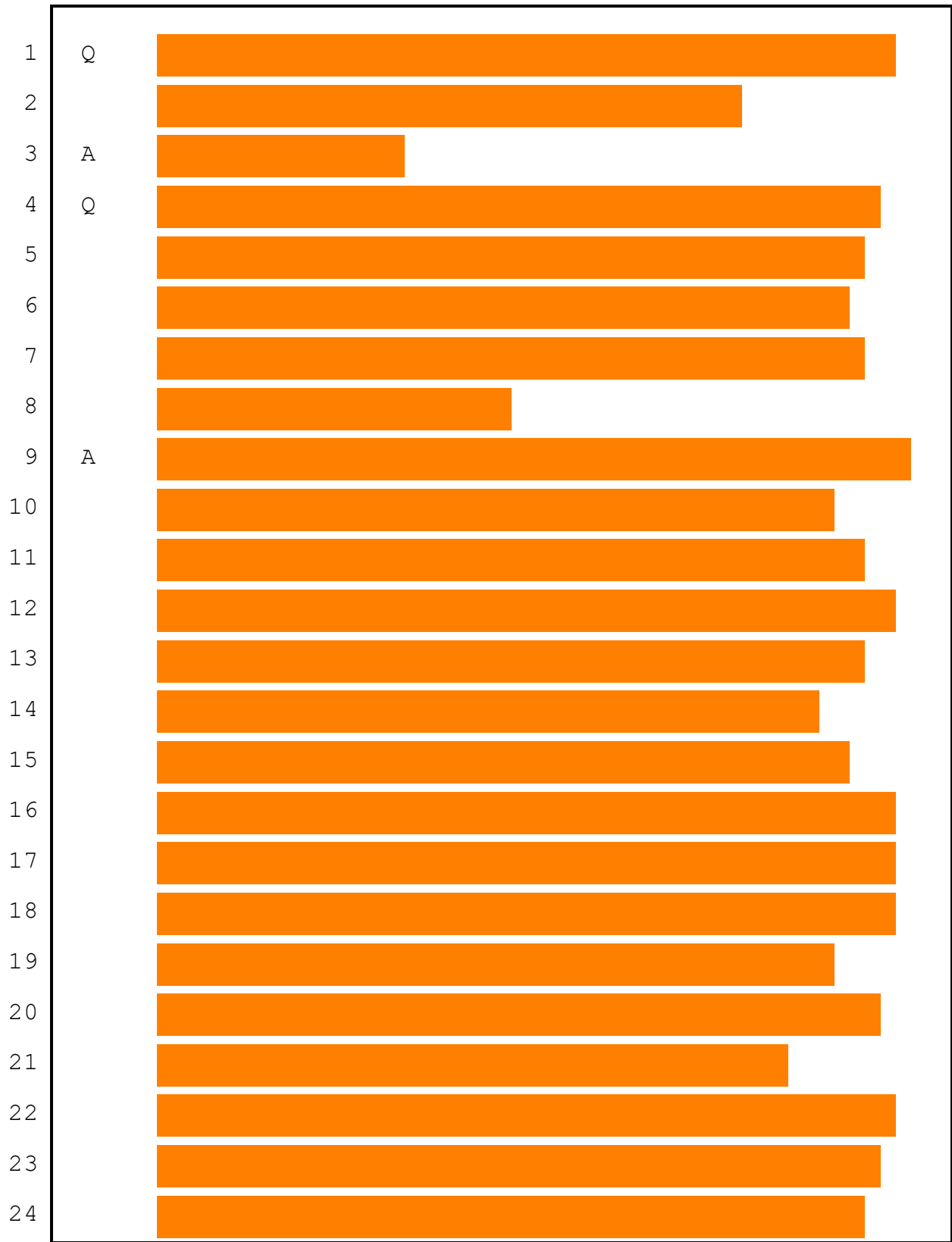
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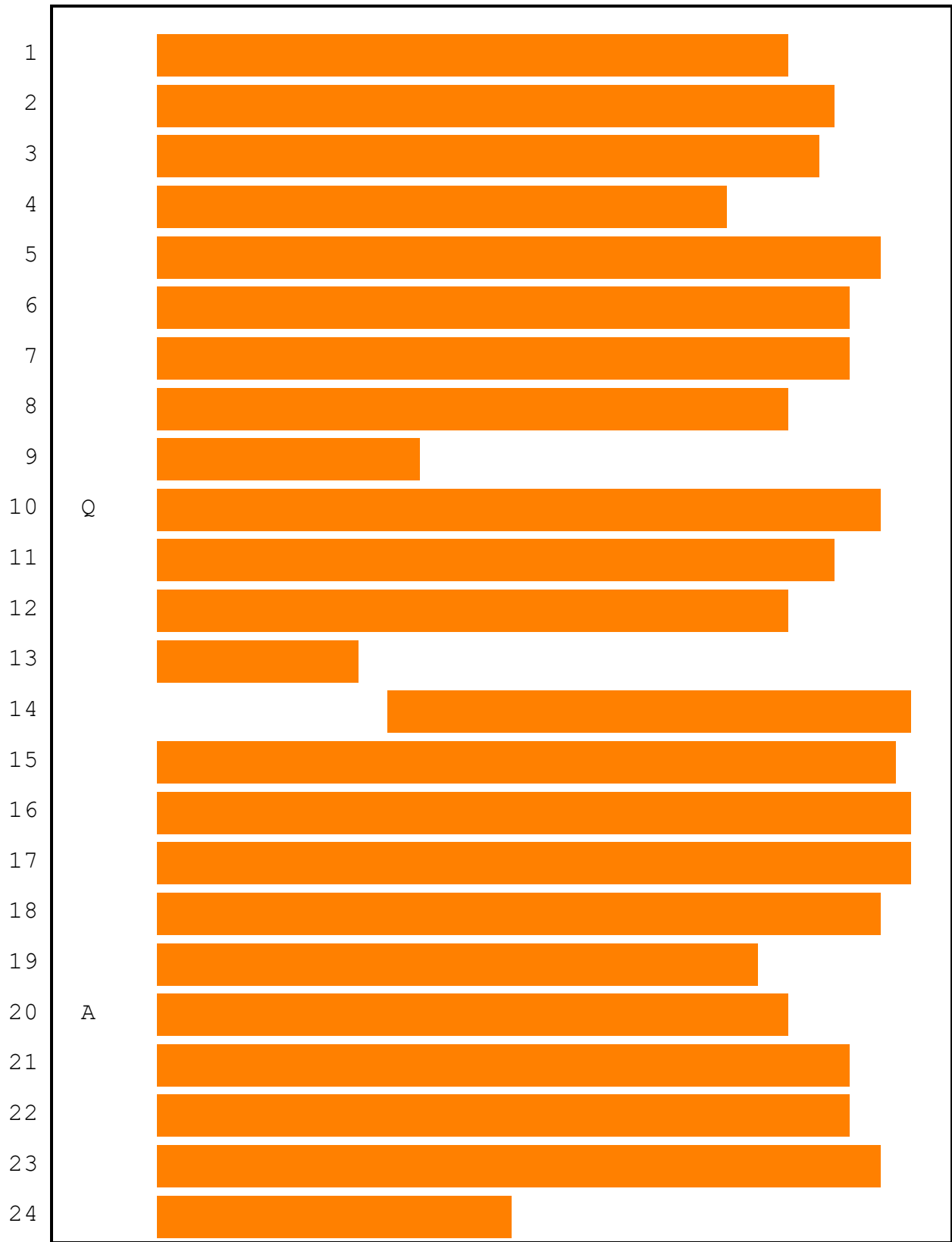
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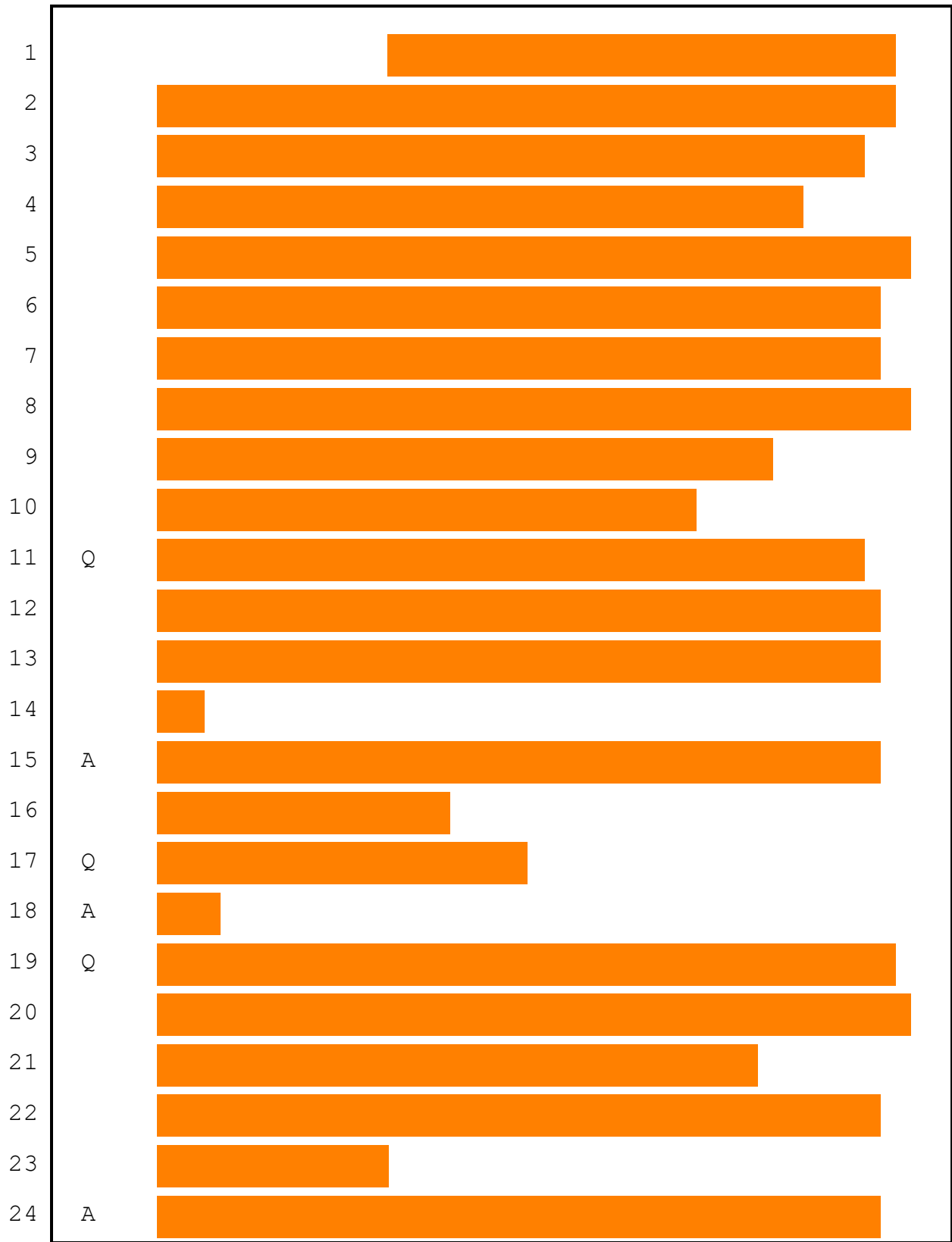


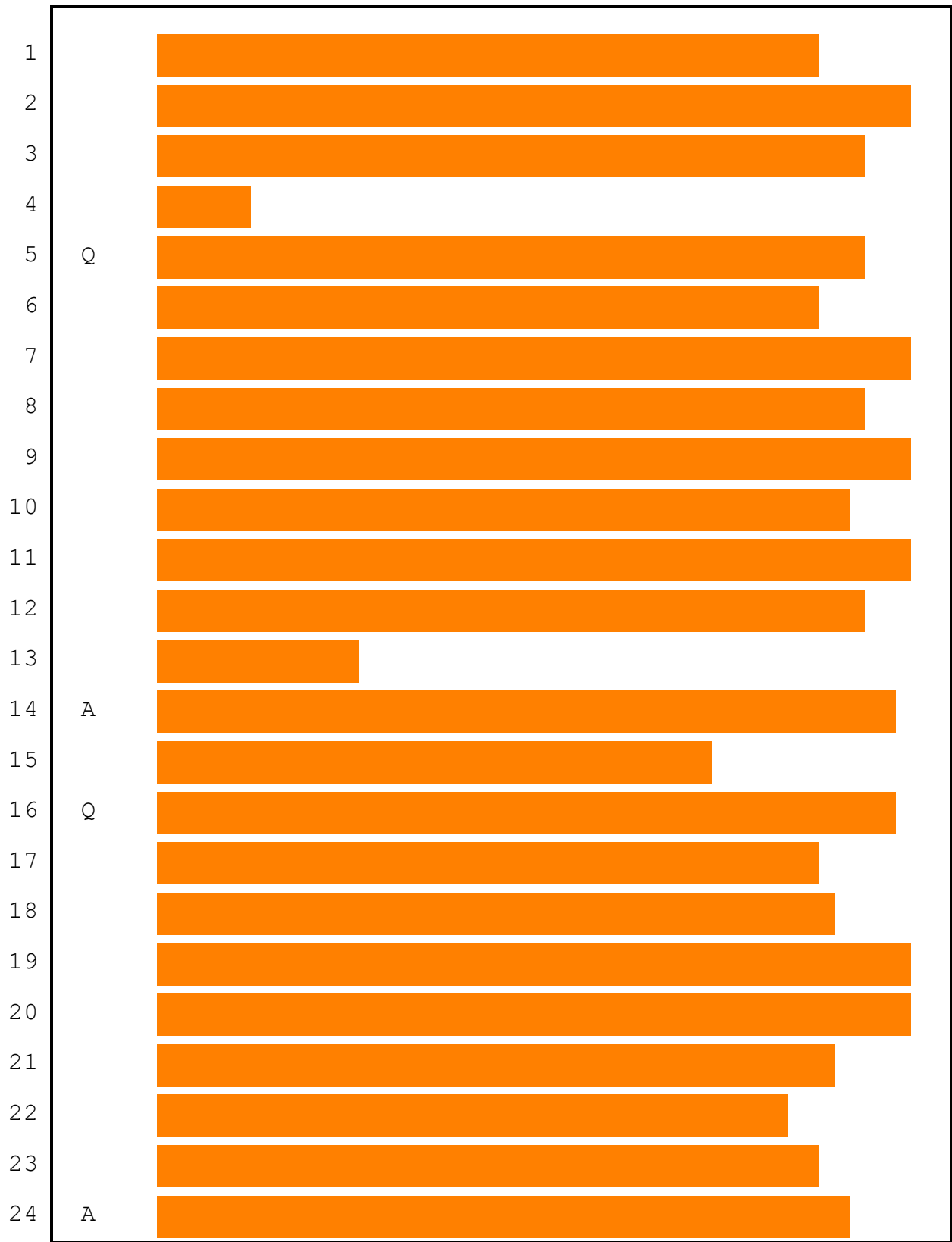
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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION







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MR. PAGE:

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MR. PAGE: [REDACTED]

MS. THOMPSON: [REDACTED]

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MR. JIRAK: [REDACTED]

MS. THOMPSON: [REDACTED]

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CHAIR MITCHELL: [REDACTED]

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BY MS. THOMPSON:

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MR. JIRAK:

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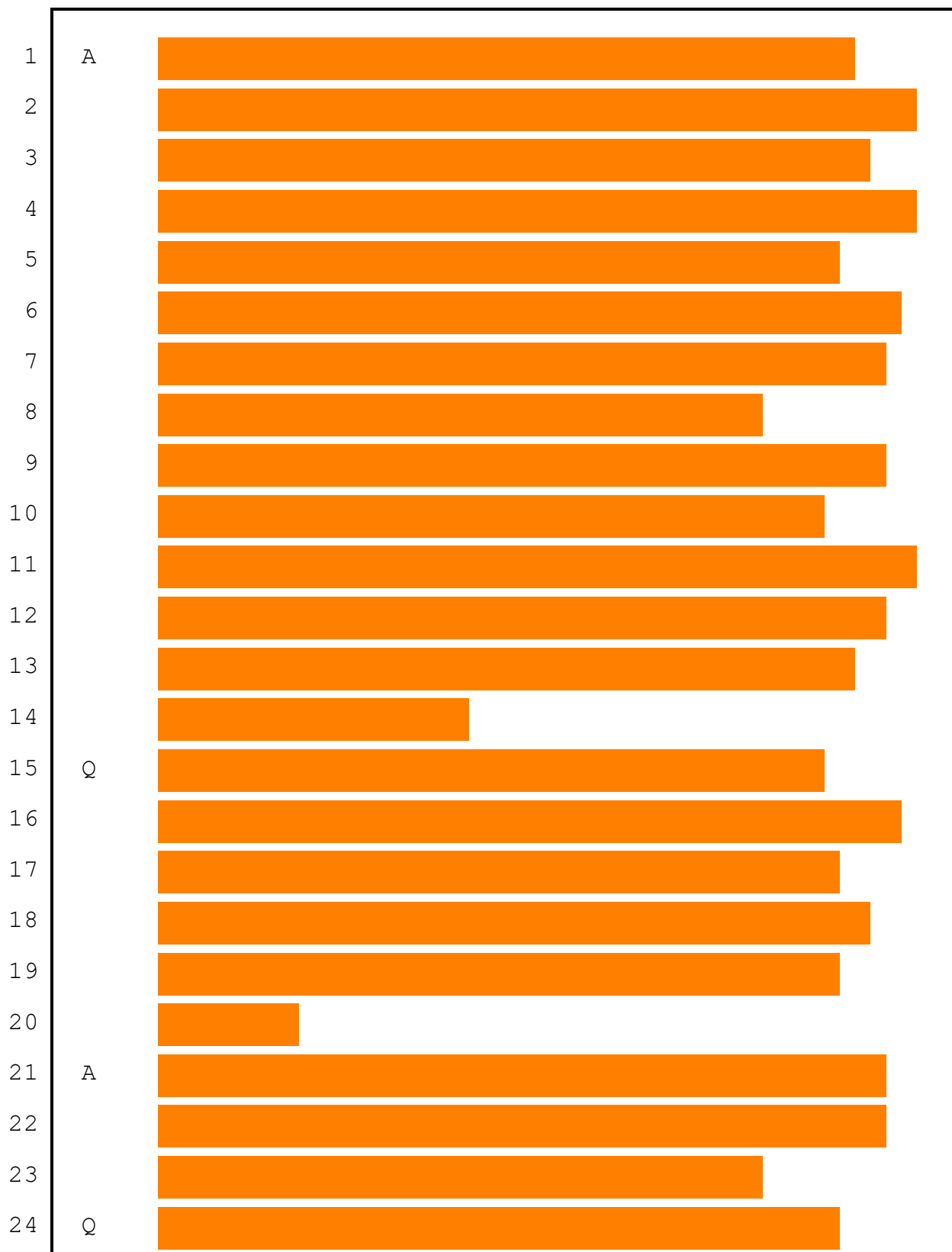
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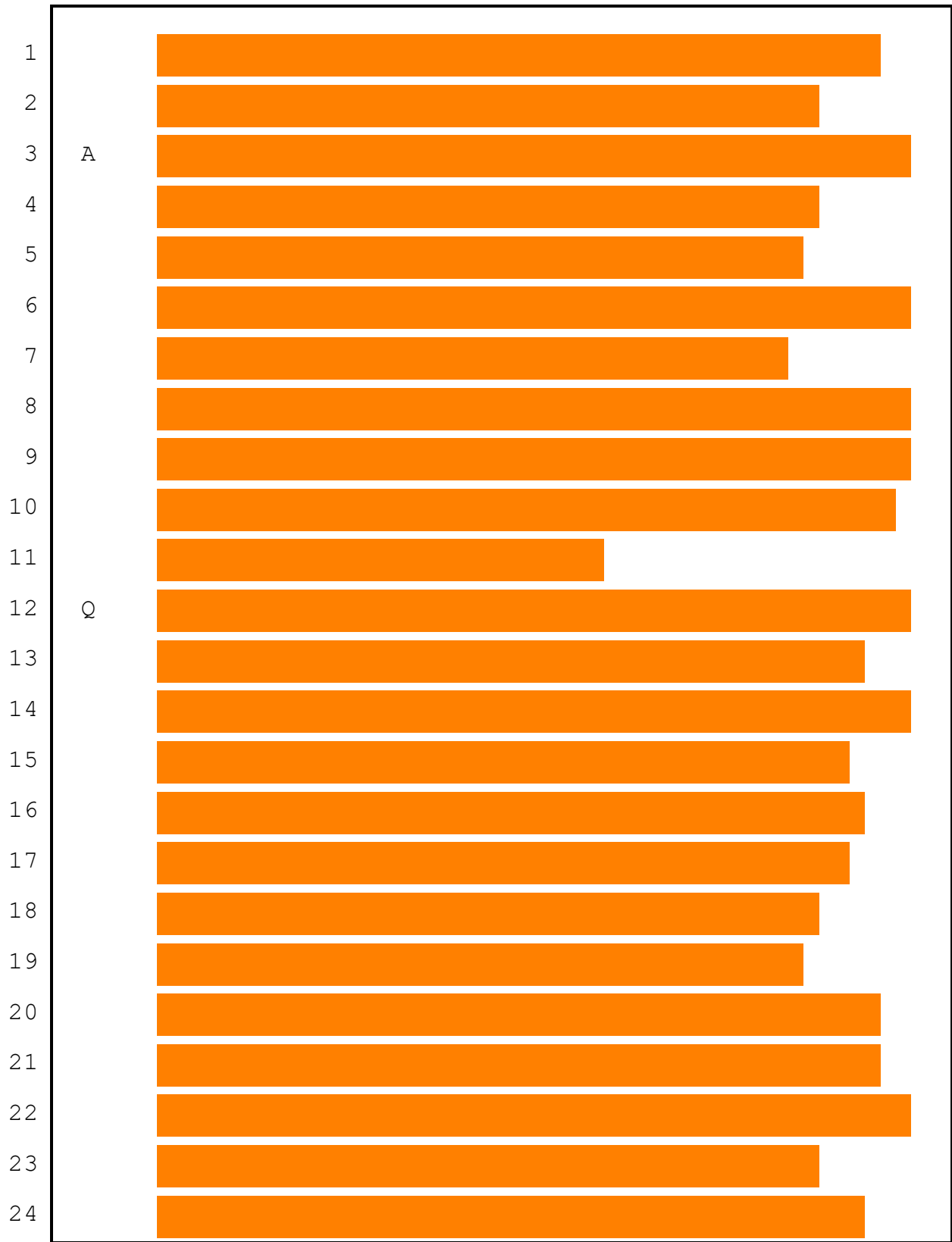
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MS. THOMPSON:

CHAIR MITCHELL:

MR. JIRAK:

MS. DOWNEY:

CHAIR MITCHELL:

1 (WHEREUPON, confidential session
2 has ended.)

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Any additional cross
4 examination for Mr. Phipps?

5 (No response)

6 Redirect?

7 MR. JIRAK: We have no redirect.

8 CHAIR MITCHELL: Questions from the
9 Commission?

10 (No response)

11 Okay. No questions from the Commission.

12 MR. JIRAK: Thank you.

13 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Phipps, you are
14 excused.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

16 (The witness is excused)

17 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam Court
18 Reporter. I would like to move admission of Sierra
19 Club Confidential Phipps Cross Exam Exhibits 1, 2 and
20 3.

21 CHAIR MITCHELL: Without objection, the
22 motion is allowed.

23 (WHEREUPON, Sierra Club
24 Confidential Phipps Cross

1 Examination Exhibits 1, 2 and 3
2 are received into evidence.)

3 CHAIR MITCHELL: Ms. Thompson, I'd ask that
4 you work with the court reporter to make sure that the
5 exhibits are appropriately identified as confidential.

6 MS. THOMPSON: (Nods head in agreement).

7 CHAIR MITCHELL: Mr. Jirak, call your next
8 witness, please.

9 MR. JIRAK: Thank you, Chair Mitchell. At
10 this time DEP would like to call to the stand Dana M.
11 Harrington.

12 CHAIR MITCHELL: Good afternoon,
13 Ms. Harrington.

14 MS. HARRINGTON: Good afternoon.

15 CHAIR MITCHELL: Let's go ahead and get you
16 sworn in.

17 DANA M. HARRINGTON;
18 having been duly sworn,
19 testified as follows:

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. JIRAK:

21 Q Ms. Harrington, would you please begin by stating
22 your full name and title for the record?

23 A Dana Marie Harrington, Rates Manager.

24 Q Ms. Harrington, did you prepare and cause to be

1 filed in this proceeding direct testimony
2 consisting of 15 pages of testimony, six exhibits
3 and 16 workpapers?

4 A I did.

5 Q And did you also prepare and cause to be filed in
6 this proceeding supplemental testimony consisting
7 of seven pages of testimony, six exhibits and 16
8 workpapers?

9 A I did.

10 Q Do you have any changes to make to your direct or
11 supplemental testimony at this time?

12 A I do not.

13 Q Ms. Harrington, if I were to ask you the same
14 questions contained in your testimony today,
15 would your answers remain the same?

16 A They would.

17 MR. JIRAK: Chair Mitchell, at this time I
18 would request that the prefiled direct and
19 supplemental testimony, and exhibits, and workpapers
20 of Dana M. Harrington be copied into the record as if
21 given orally from the stand.

22 CHAIR MITCHELL: The motion is allowed.

23 (WHEREUPON, Harrington Exhibits 1

24 - 6 and Harrington Workpapers 1 -

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16b are marked for identification
as prefiled.)

(WHEREUPON, the prefiled direct
testimony of DANA M. HARRINGTON is
copied into the record as if given
orally from the stand.)

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1204

In the Matter of)
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC)
Pursuant to G.S. 62-133.2 and NCUC Rule) **DIRECT TESTIMONY**
R8-55 Relating to Fuel and Fuel-Related) **OF DANA M. HARRINGTON FOR**
Charge Adjustments for Electric Utilities) **DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC**

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

2 A. My name is Dana M. Harrington, and my business address is 550 South Tryon
3 Street, Charlotte, North Carolina.

4 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

5 A. I am a Rates Manager supporting both Duke Energy Progress, LLC (“DEP” or the
6 “Company”) and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (“DEC”) (collectively, the
7 “Companies”).

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND**
9 **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

10 A. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with Honors from the University
11 of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and I am a certified public accountant licensed in
12 the State of North Carolina. I began my accounting career in 2005 with Greer and
13 Walker, LLC as a tax accountant and later a staff auditor. From 2007 until 2010 I
14 was an Accounting Analyst with Duke Energy in the Finance organization. In 2010,
15 I joined the Rates Department as a Lead Accounting Analyst where I have spent
16 the past eight years. I was recently promoted to the position of Rates and
17 Regulatory Strategy Manager.

18 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED OR SUBMITTED TESTIMONY**
19 **BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION?**

20 A. No.

21 **Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES AND**
22 **BOOKS OF ACCOUNT OF DEP?**

23 A. Yes. Duke Energy Progress’ books of account follow the uniform classification of
24 accounts prescribed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”).

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

2 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present the information and data required by North
3 Carolina General Statutes (“N.C. Gen. Stat.”) § 62-133.2(c) and (d) and Commission
4 Rule R8-55, as set forth in Harrington Exhibits 1 through 6, along with supporting
5 workpapers. The test period used in supplying this information is the period of April
6 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 (“test period”), and the billing period is December 1,
7 2019 through November 30, 2020 (“billing period”).

8 **Q. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THE ACTUAL INFORMATION AND DATA**
9 **FOR THE TEST PERIOD?**

10 A. Actual test period kilowatt hour (“kWh”) generation, kWh sales, fuel-related
11 revenues, and fuel-related expenses were taken from the Company’s books and
12 records. These books, records, and reports of the Company are subject to review by
13 the regulatory agencies that regulate the Company’s electric rates.

14 In addition, independent auditors perform an annual audit to provide assurance
15 that, in all material respects, internal accounting controls are operating effectively and
16 the Company’s financial statements are accurate.

17 **Q. WERE HARRINGTON EXHIBITS 1 THROUGH 6 PREPARED BY YOU OR**
18 **AT YOUR DIRECTION AND UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION?**

19 A. Yes, these exhibits were prepared by me or under my supervision and consist of the
20 following:

- 21 • Exhibit 1: Summary Comparison of Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs Factors.
- 22 • Exhibit 2, Schedule 1: Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs Factors - reflecting a 94.62%
23 proposed nuclear capacity factor and projected billing period megawatt hour (“MWh”)
24 sales.

- 1 • Exhibit 2, Schedule 2: Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs Factors - reflecting a 94.62%
2 proposed nuclear capacity factor and normalized test period MWh sales.
- 3 • Exhibit 2, Schedule 3: Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs Factors - reflecting an 91.8% North
4 American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) five-year national weighted average
5 nuclear capacity factor for comparable units and projected billing period MWh sales.
- 6 • Exhibit 3, Page 1: Calculation of the Proposed Composite Experience Modification Factor
7 (“EMF”) rate.
- 8 • Exhibit 3, Page 2: Calculation of the EMF for residential customers.
- 9 • Exhibit 3, Page 3: Calculation of the EMF for small general service customers.
- 10 • Exhibit 3, Page 4: Calculation of the EMF for medium general service customers.
- 11 • Exhibit 3, Page 5: Calculation of the EMF for large general service customers.
- 12 • Exhibit 3, Page 6: Calculation of the EMF for lighting customers.
- 13 • Exhibit 4: Normalized Test Period MWh Sales, Fuel and Fuel-Related Revenue, Fuel
14 and Fuel-Related Expense, and System Peak.
- 15 • Exhibit 5: Nuclear Capacity Ratings.
- 16 • Exhibit 6, Report 1: March 2019 Monthly Fuel Report, as required by NCUC Rule R8-52.
- 17 • Exhibit 6, Report 2: March 2019 Monthly Base Load Power Plant Performance Report, as
18 required by NCUC Rule R8-53.

19 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT IS SHOWN ON HARRINGTON EXHIBIT 1.**

20 A. Harrington Exhibit 1 presents a summary of fuel and fuel-related cost factors, which
21 include: the currently approved fuel and fuel-related cost factors, the projected fuel
22 and fuel-related cost factors using the NERC five-year national weighted average
23 capacity factor with projected billing period sales, the projected fuel and fuel-related
24 cost factors using the proposed capacity factor with normalized test period sales, and

1 the proposed fuel and fuel-related cost factors using the proposed capacity factor with
2 projected billing period sales.

3 **Q. WHAT FUEL AND FUEL-RELATED COST FACTORS DOES DEP**
4 **PROPOSE FOR INCLUSION IN RATES FOR THE BILLING PERIOD?**

5 A. The Company proposes that the fuel and fuel-related costs factors shown in the table
6 below be reflected in rates during the billing period. The factors that DEP proposes
7 in this proceeding utilize a 94.62% nuclear capacity factor as testified to by Company
8 witness Henderson. The components of the proposed fuel and fuel-related cost factors
9 by customer class, as shown on Harrington Exhibit 1 in cents per kWh (“cents/kWh”),
10 are:

		Small	Medium	Large	
		General	General	General	
	Residential	Service	Service	Service	Lighting
	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh
Proposed Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs cents/kWh	2.355	2.469	2.432	2.099	2.121
EMF Increment/(Decrement) cents/kWh	0.252	0.120	0.170	0.557	0.435
Net Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs Factors cents/kWh	2.607	2.589	2.602	2.656	2.556

11
12 **Q WHAT IS THE IMPACT TO CUSTOMERS’ BILLS IF THE PROPOSED**
13 **FUEL AND FUEL-RELATED COST FACTORS ARE APPROVED BY THE**
14 **COMMISSION?**

15 A. If the proposed fuel and fuel-related cost factors are approved, there will be a 2.4%
16 decrease, on average, in customers’ bills. The table below shows both the proposed
17 and existing fuel and fuel-related cost factors (excluding regulatory fee).

		Small	Medium	Large	
		General	General	General	
	Residential	Service	Service	Service	Lighting
	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh
Proposed Factors cents/kWh	2.607	2.589	2.602	2.656	2.556
Current Factors cents/kWh	2.886	2.919	2.820	2.795	3.136

1 **Q. HOW DOES DEP DEVELOP THE FUEL FORECASTS FOR ITS**
2 **GENERATING UNITS?**

3 A. For this filing, DEP used an hourly dispatch model in order to generate its fuel
4 forecasts. This hourly dispatch model considers the latest forecasted fuel prices,
5 outages at the generating units based on planned maintenance and refueling schedules,
6 forced outages at generating units based on historical trends, generating unit
7 performance parameters, and expected market conditions associated with power
8 purchases and off-system sales opportunities. In addition, the model dispatches
9 DEP's and DEC's generation resources with the joint dispatch, which optimizes the
10 generation fleets of DEP and DEC combined.

11 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT IS SHOWN ON HARRINGTON EXHIBIT 2,**
12 **SCHEDULES 1, 2, AND 3 INCLUDING THE NUCLEAR CAPACITY**
13 **FACTORS.**

14 A. Exhibit 2 is divided into three schedules. Schedule 1 presents the prospective fuel and
15 fuel-related costs. The calculation uses the nuclear capacity factor of 94.62%, as
16 explained in Company witness Henderson's testimony, and provides the projected
17 MWh sales for the billing period on which system generation and costs are based.
18 Schedule 2 also uses the proposed capacity factor of 94.62% but against normalized
19 test period kWh sales, as prescribed by NCUC Rule R8-55(e)(3), which requires the
20 use of the methodology adopted by the Commission in the Company's last general
21 rate case.

22 The Capacity factor shown on Schedule 3 is prescribed in NCUC Rule R8-
23 55(d)(1). The NERC five-year national weighted average nuclear capacity factor used
24 here is 91.8%. This capacity factor is based on the 2013 through 2017 data reported

1 in the NERC's Generating Unit Statistical Brochure ("NERC Brochure") for units
2 comparable to DEP's nuclear fleet. Schedule 3 also uses the projected billing period
3 kWh sales as required by NCUC Rule R8-55(d)(1).

4 Page 2 of Exhibit 2, Schedules 1, 2, and 3, presents the calculation of the
5 proposed fuel and fuel-related cost factors by customer class resulting from the
6 allocation of renewable and qualifying facility capacity costs by customer class on the
7 basis of production plant as approved in the Company's 2017 and 2018 annual fuel
8 proceedings (Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1146 and E-2, Sub 1173).

9 Page 3 of Exhibit 2, Schedules 1, 2, and 3 shows the allocation of system fuel
10 costs to the North Carolina retail jurisdiction, and the calculation of DEP's proposed
11 fuel and fuel-related cost factors for the residential, small general service, medium
12 general service, large general service, and lighting classes (excluding regulatory fee),
13 using the uniform percentage average bill adjustment method.

14 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE METHOD USED TO ADJUST KWH**
15 **GENERATION IN HARRINGTON EXHIBIT 2, SCHEDULES 2 AND 3.**

16 A. As used in DEP's most recent general rate case, and for the purposes of this filing,
17 Harrington Exhibit 2 Schedule 2 adjusts the coal generation produced by the dispatch
18 model to account for the difference between forecasted generation and normalized test
19 period generation.

20 On Exhibit 2, Schedule 3, which is based on the NERC capacity factor, DEP
21 increased the level of coal generation produced by the dispatch model to account for
22 the decrease in nuclear generation. The decrease in nuclear generation results from
23 assuming an 91.8% NERC nuclear capacity factor compared to the proposed 94.62%
24 nuclear capacity factor.

1 **Q. HOW ARE PROJECTED FUEL AND FUEL-RELATED COSTS**
2 **ALLOCATED?**

3 A. System costs are allocated to the NC retail jurisdiction based on jurisdictional sales,
4 with consideration given to any fuel and fuel-related costs or benefits that should be
5 directly assigned. Costs are further allocated among customer classes using the
6 uniform percentage average bill adjustment methodology to set fuel rates by customer
7 class in this fuel proceeding as adopted in DEP's 2018 fuel and fuel-related cost
8 recovery proceeding under Docket No. E-2, Sub 1173 with the exception of capacity-
9 related purchased power costs described in subsections (5), (6) and (10) of N.C. Gen.
10 Stat. § 62-133.2(a1), which are allocated based upon the production plant allocator
11 from the most recent annual cost of service study.

12 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE CALCULATION OF THE UNIFORM**
13 **PERCENTAGE AVERAGE BILL ADJUSTMENT METHOD SHOWN ON**
14 **HARRINGTON EXHIBIT 2, PAGE 3 OF SCHEDULES 1, 2, AND 3.**

15 A. Harrington Exhibit 2, Page 3 of Schedule 1 shows DEP's proposed fuel and fuel-
16 related cost factors for the residential, small general service, medium general service,
17 large general service, and lighting classes (excluding regulatory fee). The uniform
18 bill percentage decrease of 2.4% was calculated by dividing the fuel and fuel-related
19 cost decrease of \$89 million for the North Carolina retail jurisdiction by the
20 normalized annual North Carolina retail revenues at the existing rates of \$3.7 billion.
21 The cost decrease of \$89 million was determined by comparing the total proposed fuel
22 rate per kWh to the total fuel rate per kWh currently being collected from customers,
23 and multiplying the resulting decrease in fuel rate per kWh by projected North
24 Carolina retail kWh sales for the billing period. The proposed fuel rate per kWh equals

1 the sum of the rate necessary to recover projected billing period fuel costs and the
2 proposed composite EMF increment as computed on Harrington Exhibit 3, Page 1.
3 Harrington Exhibit 2, Page 3 of Schedules 2 and 3 uses the same calculation, but with
4 the methodology as prescribed by NCUC Rule R8-55(e)(3) and NCUC Rule R8-
5 55(d)(1), respectively.

6 **Q. HOW ARE SPECIFIC FUEL AND FUEL-RELATED COST FACTORS FOR**
7 **EACH CUSTOMER CLASS DERIVED FROM THE UNIFORM PERCENT**
8 **ADJUSTMENT COMPUTED ON HARRINGTON EXHIBIT 2, PAGE 3 OF**
9 **SCHEDULES 1, 2, AND 3?**

10 A. On each of Harrington Exhibit 2, Page 3 of Schedules 1, 2, and 3, the equal percent
11 decrease for each customer class is applied to current annual revenues by customer
12 class to determine a revenue decrease for each customer class. The revenue decrease
13 is divided by the projected billing period sales for each class to derive a cents/kWh
14 decrease. The current total fuel and fuel-related cost factors for each class are adjusted
15 by the proposed cents/kWh decrease to get the proposed total fuel and fuel-related
16 cost factors. The proposed total fuel factors are then separated into the prospective and
17 EMF components by subtracting the EMF components for each customer class as
18 computed on Harrington Exhibit 3, Pages 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 to derive the prospective
19 rate component for each customer class. Presentation of the projected fuel and fuel-
20 related cost factors and the projected EMF increments are shown on Harrington
21 Exhibit 2, Page 2 of Schedules 1, 2, and 3.

22 **Q. DID YOU DETERMINE THAT DEP'S ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE**
23 **AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF THE COSTS IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS**
24 **(4), (5), (6), (10) AND (11) OF N.C. GEN. STAT. § 62-133.2(A1) DID NOT**

1 **EXCEED 2.5% OF ITS NC RETAIL GROSS REVENUES FOR 2018, AS**
2 **REQUIRED BY N.C. GEN. STAT. § 62-133.2(A2)?**

3 A. Yes. The Company's analysis shows that the annual increase in the costs recoverable
4 under the relevant sections of the statute did not exceed 2.5% of DEP's gross revenues
5 for the NC retail jurisdiction for the preceding calendar year; therefore, no adjustment
6 has been made to exclude a portion of DEP's projected costs for the billing period as
7 shown on Harrington Exhibit 2, Page 3 of Schedules 1, 2, or 3.

8 **Q. HARRINGTON EXHIBIT 3 SHOWS THE CALCULATION OF THE TEST**
9 **PERIOD (OVER)/UNDER RECOVERY BALANCE AND THE PROPOSED**
10 **EMF RATE. HOW DID ACTUAL FUEL EXPENSES COMPARE WITH**
11 **FUEL REVENUE DURING THE TEST PERIOD?**

12 A. Harrington Exhibit 3, Page 1 demonstrates that, for the test period, the Company
13 experienced a net under-recovery of approximately \$146.8 million for the combined
14 customer classes of the North Carolina retail jurisdiction. In its 2018 fuel proceeding,
15 Docket E-2, Sub 1173, the Company reduced its forecasted purchased power costs by
16 \$57.4 million in order to comply with limitations in annual fuel increases as prescribed
17 in G.S. 62-133.2(a2). As a result, the Company expected fuel revenues during the test
18 period would be lower than fuel expenses, resulting in an under-collection.

19 The test period (over)/under collection was determined each month by
20 comparing the actual fuel revenues collected from each class to actual fuel and fuel-
21 related costs incurred by class based on the actual monthly sales of each class. DEP
22 System fuel and fuel-related costs incurred were first allocated to the North Carolina
23 retail jurisdiction based on jurisdictional sales, with consideration given to any fuel
24 and fuel-related costs or benefits that should be directly assigned. The North Carolina

1 retail amount of purchased power capacity costs from renewables and qualifying
2 facilities were allocated among customer classes based on production plant allocators
3 from DEP's cost of service study. All other fuel and fuel-related costs were allocated
4 among customer classes using the uniform percentage average bill adjustment method
5 consistent with DEP's previous annual fuel proceeding.

6 **Q. IS THE COMPANY PROPOSING ANY COST ADJUSTMENTS TO THE**
7 **TEST PERIOD UNDER-COLLECTION OF FUEL AND FUEL-RELATED**
8 **COSTS?**

9 A. Yes. The Company is proposing to recover a component of net gain/loss on the sale
10 of by-products included in test period costs on a cash basis rather than an accrual basis.
11 The recommended adjustment relates to liquidated damages on the sale of by-products
12 that are to be paid over 10 years under a settlement agreement with a third party to
13 whom the Company sells gypsum. For accounting purposes, the full 10-year liability
14 was accrued in December 2018. These system costs were reflected in the monthly fuel
15 filings as they were recorded to the Company's books in FERC account 502, which is
16 incorporated into the computation of net gain/loss on the sale of by-products.
17 Currently, the NC retail share of these costs is reflected in the test period under-
18 collection balance of \$146.8 million. In this case, the Company believes that it is more
19 equitable to customers for the Company to recover these costs as the amounts are paid,
20 rather than when the liability was accrued. To achieve this result, an adjustment of
21 (\$44.1) million, to remove the North Carolina retail portion of the total amount
22 recorded to the books during the test year, is presented on Harrington Exhibit 3, Page
23 1. Subsequently, a second adjustment of \$6.6 million is presented on Harrington
24 Exhibit 3, Page 1 to recognize only the North Carolina retail portion of the cash

1 payments made during the test period. These adjustments are further identified by
2 customer class on Harrington Exhibit 3, Pages 2 through 6.

3 In addition, the North Carolina retail portion of the cash payment to be made
4 during the billing period, which totals approximately \$5 million, is included in
5 projected costs and would be included in projected costs annually until terms of the
6 agreement are complete.

7 **Q. WHY ARE THESE LIQUIDATED DAMAGES PROPERLY RECOVERED**
8 **IN FUEL RATES?**

9 A. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.2(a1)(9) specifies that “cost of fuel and fuel-related costs
10 shall be adjusted for any net gains or losses resulting from any sales by the electric
11 public utility of by-products produced in the generation process to the extent the costs
12 of the inputs leading to that by-product are costs of fuel or fuel-related costs.” In this
13 case, the liquidated damages are properly included in the calculation of net gain/loss
14 on the sale of by-products because the liquidated damages provision was an essential
15 commercial term of a larger transaction that was reasonably and prudently entered
16 into by the Company for the benefit of customers. Due to changes in coal
17 consumption over time, the Company was not able to meet its contractual gypsum
18 supply obligations. Nevertheless, the Company’s decision to enter into the
19 arrangement was prudent and reasonable and the transaction as a whole still provided
20 a benefit to customers.

21 **Q. WERE ANY OTHER COST ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO THE TEST**
22 **PERIOD UNDER-COLLECTION OF FUEL AND FUEL-RELATED COSTS?**

23 A. Yes. Included in the test period under-recovered balance is the under-collection
24 related to the coal inventory rider established in Ordering Paragraph 12 of the

1 Commission's February 23, 2018 *Order Accepting Stipulation, Deciding Contested*
2 *Issue and Granting Partial Rate Increase* in Docket No. E-2, Sub 1142. DEP is not
3 recovering any coal inventory rider costs other than interest beyond the month of
4 October 2018 when the termination requirements were met, but the rates associated
5 with the rider were not terminated from customer billings until service on and after
6 December 1, 2018. Additional amounts collected through January 2019 reduced the
7 October under-collected balance. Interest has been calculated on the under-collected
8 balance through November 30, 2019. The inclusion of the coal inventory rider under-
9 collection is shown on Harrington Exhibit 3, Page 1, and is further identified at the
10 customer class level on Pages 2 through 6.

11 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT IS SHOWN ON HARRINGTON EXHIBIT 4.**

12 A. As required by NCUC Rule R8-55(e)(1) and (e)(2), Harrington Exhibit 4 presents test
13 period actual MWh sales, the customer growth MWh adjustment, and the weather
14 MWh adjustment. Test period MWh sales were normalized for weather using a 30-
15 year period, consistent with the methodology utilized in DEP's most recent general
16 rate case (Docket No. E-2, Sub 1142) and DEP's most recent fuel and fuel-related cost
17 recovery proceeding (Docket No. E-2, Sub 1173). Customer growth was determined
18 using regression analysis for residential, small general service, and lighting classes,
19 and a customer-by-customer analysis for medium and large general service customers.
20 Finally, Harrington Exhibit 4 shows the test period peak demand for the system and
21 for North Carolina Retail customer classes.

22 **Q. PLEASE IDENTIFY WHAT IS SHOWN ON HARRINGTON EXHIBIT 5.**

23 A. Harrington Exhibit 5 presents the capacity ratings for each of DEP's nuclear units, in
24 compliance with Rule R8-55(e)(12).

1 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE DEP'S FUEL AND FUEL-RELATED COSTS**
2 **INCURRED IN THE TEST YEAR ARE REASONABLE?**

3 A. Yes. As shown on Harrington Exhibit 6, DEP's test year actual fuel and fuel-related
4 costs were 2.658 cents/kWh. Key factors in DEP's ability to maintain lower fuel and
5 fuel-related rates include its diverse generating portfolio of nuclear, coal, natural gas,
6 and hydro, the capacity factors of its nuclear fleet, and fuel procurement strategies,
7 which mitigate volatility in supply costs. Other key factors include DEP's and DEC's
8 respective expertise in transporting, managing and blending fuels, procuring reagents,
9 and utilizing purchasing synergies of the combined Company, as well as the joint
10 dispatch of DEP's and DEC's generation resources.

11 Company witness Henderson discusses the performance of DEP's nuclear
12 generation fleet and Company witness Repko discusses the performance of the
13 fossil/hydro/solar fleet, as well as the chemicals that DEP uses to reduce emissions.
14 Company witness Phipps discusses fossil fuel costs and fossil fuel procurement
15 strategies, and Company witness Church discusses nuclear fuel costs and nuclear fuel
16 procurement strategies.

17 **Q. WHAT ARE THE KEY DRIVERS IMPACTING THE PROPOSED FUEL**
18 **AND FUEL-RELATED COST FACTORS?**

19 A. The largest component of the decrease in the proposed fuel and fuel-related cost
20 factors is the request for collection of approximately \$109.6 million of under-collected
21 fuel costs via the proposed EMF increment, compared to the \$224.3 million of under-
22 collected fuel costs included in the existing EMF increment.

1 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY FILED WORKPAPERS SUPPORTING THE**
2 **CALCULATIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, AND NORMALIZATIONS AS**
3 **REQUIRED BY NCUC RULE R8-55(E)(11)?**

4 A. Yes. Working papers supporting the calculations, adjustments, and normalizations
5 utilized to derive the proposed fuel factors are included with this filing.

6 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

7 A. Yes, it does.

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(15 PAGES)
(WHEREUPON, Revised Harrington Exhibit 1; Revised Harrington Exhibit 2, Schedule 1, page 3 of 3, Schedule 2, pages 1 - 3, and Schedule 3, page 3 of 3; Revised Harrington Exhibit 3 and 4; Revised Harrington Workpapers 8a, 9, 15, 16, 16a and 16b are marked for identification as prefiled.)
(WHEREUPON, the prefiled supplemental of DANA M. HARRINGTON is copied into the record as if given orally from the stand.)

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1204

In the Matter of)
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC)
Pursuant to G.S. 62-133.2 and NCUC Rule) **SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY**
R8-55 Relating to Fuel and Fuel-Related) **OF DANA M. HARRINGTON FOR**
Charge Adjustments for Electric Utilities) **DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC**

OFFICIAL COPY

Aug 05 2019

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

2 A. My name is Dana M. Harrington and my business address is 550 South Tryon
3 Street, Charlotte, North Carolina.

4 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY FILED TESTIMONY IN THIS**
5 **PROCEEDING?**

6 A. Yes, on June 11, 2019, I caused to be pre-filed with the Commission my direct
7 testimony, six exhibits, and sixteen supporting workpapers.

8 **Q. YOUR SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY INCLUDES FOUR REVISED**
9 **EXHIBITS AND FOUR SUPPORTING WORKPAPERS. WERE THESE**
10 **SUPPLEMENTAL EXHIBITS AND WORKPAPERS PREPARED BY**
11 **YOU OR AT YOUR DIRECTION AND UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION?**

12 A. Yes. These exhibits and workpapers were prepared by me and consist of the
13 following:

- 14 • Revised Exhibit 1: Summary Comparison of Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs Factors.
15
- 16 • Revised Exhibit 2, Schedule 1, Page 3: Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs Factors -
17 reflecting a 94.62% proposed nuclear capacity factor and projected billing period
18 megawatt hour (“MWh”) sales; Schedule 2, Pages 1, 2, & 3: Fuel and Fuel-Related
19 Costs Factors - reflecting a 94.62% proposed nuclear capacity factor and
20 normalized test period MWh sales; and Schedule 3, Page 3: Fuel and Fuel-Related
21 Costs Factors - reflecting an 91.8% North American Electric Reliability
22 Corporation (“NERC”) five-year national weighted average nuclear capacity factor
23 for comparable units and projected billing period MWh sales.

- 1 • Revised Exhibit 3, Page 1: Calculation of the Proposed Composite Experience
2 Modification Factor (“EMF”) rate; Page 2: Calculation of the EMF for residential
3 customers; Page 3: Calculation of the EMF for small general service customers;
4 Page 4: Calculation of the EMF for medium general service customers; Page 5:
5 Calculation of the EMF for large general service customers, and Page 6:
6 Calculation of the EMF for lighting customers.
- 7 • Revised Exhibit 4: Normalized Test Period MWh Sales, Fuel and Fuel-Related
8 Revenue, Fuel and Fuel-Related Expense, and System Peak.
- 9 • Revised Workpaper 8a: Calculation of Allocation percentages based on
10 Normalized Test Period Sales.
- 11 • Revised Workpaper 9: Customer Growth Adjustment.
- 12 • Revised Workpaper 15: Scenario Differences.
- 13 • Revised Workpaper 16: 2.5% Calculation Test; Workpaper 16a: 2.5% Calculation
14 Test – Normalized, and Workpaper 16b: 2.5% Calculation Test – Detail
15 Calculation.

16 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY IN**
17 **THIS PROCEEDING?**

18 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present the revised rates reflecting the impacts
19 related to three updates in my direct exhibits and workpapers.

20 The primary update relates to the proposed EMF increment for the under-
21 recovery of fuel and fuel-related costs. NCUC Rule R8-55(d)(3) allows the Company
22 to update the fuel and fuel-related cost recovery balance up to thirty (30) days prior to

1 the hearing. The Company elects this option and supplements the direct testimony
2 and exhibits to include the fuel and fuel-related cost recovery balance as of the 15
3 months ended June 30, 2019. The Company experienced an under-collection of
4 \$41,484,352 during the months April through June 2019. As shown on Revised
5 Harrington Exhibit 3, the incorporation of the updated test period under-collection
6 balance resulted in an under-recovered balance as of June 30, 2019 of \$151,035,306
7 (following adjustments).

8 In addition, I update proposed rates to reflect revisions to the customer class
9 allocation of manual adjustments made to the EMF under collection balance.

10 Finally, I update rates presented for informational purposes to reflect revisions
11 to the customer growth component of normalized test period sales.

12 **Q PLEASE IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC SCHEDULES REVISED FOR EACH**
13 **UPDATE.**

14 A. The primary update, to incorporate the EMF under collection balance at June 30, 2019,
15 impacts the following exhibits:

- 16 o Exhibit 1,
- 17 o Exhibit 2, Schedules, 1, 2, and 3, Page 3, and
- 18 o Exhibit 3, Pages 1-6.

19 The second update, to restate the customer class allocations of the manual
20 adjustments to the EMF as seen on Exhibit 3, Page 1, impacts the following exhibits:

- 21 o Exhibit 1 and
- 22 o Exhibit 3, Pages 2-6.

23 The third update, to revise the Customer Growth adjustment used in the calculation of

1 normalized test period sales, impacts the following exhibits:

- 2 ○ Exhibit 1,
- 3 ○ Exhibit 2, Schedule 2, Pages 1 and 2, and
- 4 ○ Exhibit 3, Pages 1-6.

5 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR UPDATING THE CUSTOMER**
6 **CLASS ALLOCATIONS OF THE MANUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE EMF.**

7 A. While updating the proposed EMF to a 15-month ending balance, the Company
8 reevaluated the allocation method used to assign the customer classes their portions
9 of the manual adjustments. In my initial direct testimony, each class's total test period
10 sales as a percentage of NC retail total test period sales had been used to assign the
11 customer classes their portions of the adjustments. Since the intent was to adjust the
12 customer classes respective to their contributions to the total under-collected EMF
13 balance, the Company decided to update the allocations to the customer classes
14 according to each class's share of NC retail sales in the months the costs were recorded
15 to the general ledger and included in the over/under collection computation. The
16 impact of this correction to proposed customer rates is as follows: residential (0.015)
17 cents per kWh, small general service 0.019 cents per kWh, medium general service
18 0.016 cents per kWh, large general service 0.002 cents per kWh, and lighting (0.010)
19 cents per kWh.

20 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR UPDATING THE CUSTOMER**
21 **GROWTH ADJUSTMENT.**

22 A. The Public Staff recommended adjustments to the customer growth calculation, which
23 the Company agrees were necessary, resulting in a change of (2,062) MWh to adjusted

1 NC system sales. This further equates to adjustments of (2,024) MWh to NC retail
 2 sales, (1) MWh to SC retail sales, and (38) MWh to wholesale sales. The fuel rates
 3 proposed by the Company are not affected by this update. This revision only affects
 4 the rate for Small General Service customers presented for informational purposes on
 5 Exhibit 1, line 6. The informational rates on Exhibit 1 line 6 are supported by Exhibit
 6 2, Schedule 2, which presents a scenario using the proposed nuclear capacity factor of
 7 94.62% with normalized test period sales.

8 **Q. WHAT IS THE RATE IMPACT OF THESE UPDATES?**

9 A. The NC Retail Total Fuel Costs were increased by \$ 41,900,604 from the amounts
 10 filed in my direct testimony Exhibit 2, Schedule 1, page 3. The components of the
 11 proposed fuel and fuel-related cost factors by customer class, as shown on Revised
 12 Harrington Exhibit 1, are as follows:

Description	Small		Medium		Large	
	Residential	General	Service	General	Service	Lighting
	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh	cents/KWh
Total adjusted Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs cents/kWh	2.344	2.527	2.468	2.056	2.281	
EMF Increment/(Decrement) cents/kWh	0.394	0.217	0.236	0.666	0.548	
Net Proposed Fuel and Fuel-Related Costs Factors cents/kWh	2.738	2.744	2.704	2.722	2.829	

14 **Q. WHAT IS THE IMPACT TO CUSTOMERS' BILLS IF THE REVISED**
 15 **PROPOSED FUEL AND FUEL-RELATED COSTS FACTORS ARE**
 16 **APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION?**

17 A. The revised proposed fuel and fuel-related costs factors will result in a 1.3% decrease,
 18 on average, in customers' bills. The rates previously proposed in my direct testimony
 19 would result in a 2.4% decrease, on average, in customers' bills.

1 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED SUPPLEMENTAL
2 TESTIMONY?

3 A. Yes, it does.

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Aug 05 2019

1 BY MR. JIRAK:

2 Q Ms. Harrington, have you prepared a summary of
3 your testimony?

4 A I have.

5 Q Please proceed.

6 A Good afternoon, Commissioners.

7 (WHEREUPON, the summary of DANA M.
8 HARRINGTON is copied into the
9 record as read from the witness
10 stand.)
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DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC
DANA M. HARRINGTON DIRECT and SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT
TESTIMONY SUMMARY
DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1204

OFFICIAL COPY

Oct 04 2019

1 The purpose of my direct testimony is to describe fuel factors by customer class to become
2 effective December 1, 2019 for DEP's North Carolina retail customers. My testimony reports
3 DEP's Experience Modification Factor ("EMF"), for fuel and fuel-related costs, including
4 purchased power capacity costs from renewable and qualifying facility sources, incurred while
5 providing energy service to North Carolina customers for the test period of April 1, 2018 through
6 March 31, 2019. In addition, my testimony provides DEP's projected fuel and fuel-related costs,
7 including purchased power capacity costs from renewables and qualifying facility sources, for the
8 billing period of December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020.

9 One item of note from my testimony is the proposal to recover liquidated damages on the
10 sale of by-products on a cash basis rather than an accrual basis. Based on this adjustment, the
11 Company is requesting cost recovery of North Carolina's retail share of cash payments within the
12 EMF balance, which is \$6.6 million. Also included in this filing is the request for approximately
13 \$5 million dollars in future cash payments anticipated in the projected billing period. The
14 liquidated damages are properly recoverable through fuel rates, as the Company has experienced
15 a net loss resulting from its sales of gypsum produced in the generation of electricity. Finally, the
16 EMF balance proposed in my exhibits also includes approximately \$250,000 of an under-
17 recovered balance related to the coal inventory rider which expired November 30, 2018.

18 The purpose of my supplemental direct testimony is to update the proposed EMF to
19 incorporate the under-recovered fuel and fuel-related costs experienced during the period of
20 April 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019. Following the incorporation of the update period, the North
21 Carolina retail under-recovered balance as of June 30, 2019 is approximately \$151 million dollars.
22 This update has been reflected in my supplemental testimony and in the proposed rates conveyed
23 in this summary. In addition, the supplemental testimony revised the customer class allocation of

1 the manual adjustments to the EMF balance and revised the customer growth component of
2 normalized test period sales for informational purposes.

3 The net proposed fuel and fuel-related costs factors by customer class are: 2.738 cents per
4 kWh for Residential customers, 2.744 cents per kWh for Small General Service customers, 2.704
5 cents per kWh for Medium General Service customers, 2.722 cents per kWh for Large General
6 Service customers, and 2.829 cents per kWh for Lighting customers. These rates are a decrease
7 from prior year rates for all customer classes.

8 The Company's test period fuel costs reflect DEP's continuing efforts to maintain reliable
9 service in an efficient manner, thereby minimizing the total cost of providing service to DEP's
10 North Carolina retail customers. The impact of the rates set forth in my testimony, is a decrease
11 of 1.3% for all customer classes.

12 This concludes the summary of my testimony.

1 MR. JIRAK: Thank you, Ms. Harrington.

2 Chair Mitchell, the witness is available for
3 cross examination.

4 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WEST:

5 Q Good afternoon, Ms. Harrington, how are you?

6 A Good. How are you?

7 Q Because we're getting close to the five o'clock
8 hour and I don't want to carry these documents
9 again, I'm going to go ahead and pass out four
10 fairly bulky exhibits and have them marked.

11 (Mr. West handed out exhibits.)

12 A Thank you.

13 MR. WEST: I'm going to ask that the four
14 exhibits be marked -- the first one marked as FPWC
15 Harrington Confidential Cross Examination Exhibit 1.

16 MR. JIRAK: Just to pause you one second,
17 you said the first one --

18 MR. WEST: It would be -- it was a -- it's a
19 confidential document that starts with the word
20 "second".

21 MR. JIRAK: Okay.

22 MR. WEST: They should all be in order.

23 The second document which is a discovery
24 request and response also marked confidential would --

1 I would ask to be marked as FPWC Harrington
2 Confidential Cross Examination Exhibit 2. The third
3 exhibit is an opinion and final judgment. It's a
4 public document. So I would ask that it be marked as
5 FPWC Harrington Cross Examination Exhibit 3. And the
6 fourth document is labeled Confidential Settlement and
7 I would ask that it be labeled as FPWC Harrington
8 Confidential Cross Examination Exhibit 4.

9 So let's --

10 MR. JIRAK: Pardon. Sorry to keep
11 interrupting but if we're gonna -- if the questions
12 are now going to touch on the substance of the
13 confidential documents then we'll have to once again
14 ask - apologies to Mr. Styers - Mr. Styers to leave
15 the room again. But I guess you can let us know --

16 MR. WEST: Not yet.

17 MR. JIRAK: Okay.

18 MR. WEST: I'll try to pause and let you
19 know if I'm going to ask about substance. I'm going
20 to ask her to identify them. I assume the titles are
21 not confidential. I just want to know whether she
22 recognizes them and has seen them before. But I'm not
23 going to ask about substance at this point.

24 MR. JIRAK: Let me check on one question.

1 If you're going to reference the titles, I need to
2 confirm one thing with my team before you publicly
3 disclose the title of one of the documents.

4 MR. WEST: Which?

5 MR. JIRAK: It would be your Exhibit Number
6 4.

7 MR. WEST: Is it okay if we confer?

8 (Conversation among counsel.)

9 MR. JIRAK: Please proceed with your
10 questions. I have confirmed that the titles of the
11 four documents are fine to publicly discuss.

12 MR. WEST: Thank you very much.

13 BY MR. WEST:

14 Q So, Ms. Harrington, in preparing your testimony
15 about the liquidated damages, did you have an
16 opportunity to review the --

17 A All of these --

18 Q -- document marked as Exhibit 1 which is entitled
19 Second Amended and Restated Supply Agreement?

20 A This one I have not read as detailed as I read
21 the initial agreement from 2004, which I noted.
22 So I, to the degree -- no, I would not say I have
23 read this one front to back as I have done the
24 2004.

1 Q Do you --

2 A This is suppose --

3 Q Do you recognize the document? That's all I'm
4 asking.

5 A Yes. Yes.

6 Q Okay. And this isn't -- if you would just take a
7 minute to look through it.

8 A Sure.

9 Q This is, in fact, the Second Amended and Restated
10 Supply Agreement.

11 A Okay.

12 Q Correct?

13 A It appears to be. Yes.

14 Q And this agreement is the agreement that is
15 relevant to the dispute that led to the
16 liquidated damages, correct?

17 A I would consider any historical document signed
18 with the counter-party to be relevant to the
19 liquidated damages.

20 Q Okay. Do you know what an Amended and Restated
21 Agreement is?

22 A It's a new contract. Yes.

23 Q Right.

24 A Well, amended -- I do -- I do, but -- continue.

1 Sorry.

2 Q So to the extent that a dispute arose after 2012,
3 this would be the agreement the parties were
4 operating under that was the subject of that
5 dispute, correct?

6 A Probably at that time, yes.

7 Q So let me ask you to look at the exhibit marked
8 number 2.

9 A This one? Opinion?

10 Q No. This is the one that says confidential in
11 the middle and it's a discovery request. It's
12 two pages in length.

13 A Oh, this one. Okay.

14 Q Discovery request and response. So have you seen
15 that before?

16 A Yes, I have seen this.

17 Q And have you had an opportunity to review it?

18 A Yes, I have.

19 Q And is it -- is this a full and accurate
20 recitation of the discovery request from the
21 Public Staff --

22 A Yes.

23 Q -- and DEP's response?

24 A Yes.

1 Q And the third exhibit which is entitled Opinion
2 and Final Judgment.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Have you seen that?

5 A I've never seen this.

6 Q Never seen it.

7 A Uh-uh (no).

8 Q Do you know what it is?

9 A Yes, I do but I've relied on the Settlement
10 Agreement for my own study. So I have not seen
11 this.

12 Q Is this relevant to the Settlement Agreement to
13 your knowledge?

14 A I'm sure it's relevant, yes, but I'm not a legal
15 person. I'm an accountant. So this didn't
16 pertain to my testimony. This wasn't relevant to
17 the development of my testimony.

18 Q Okay. And then the fourth exhibit --

19 A This one.

20 Q -- which is labeled Confidential Settlement
21 Termination and Release Agreement.

22 A Yes.

23 Q Have you had an opportunity to --

24 A Yes. This is the Settlement Agreement.

1 Q So you recognize --

2 A Yes.

3 Q -- that document?

4 A Yes, I do. Yes.

5 Q So when you talk about any kind of settlement in
6 your testimony, this is the settlement to which
7 you are referring, correct?

8 A I trust it is unless something looks identical to
9 this. Yes.

10 Q Would you mind just taking a quick look through
11 it --

12 A Sure.

13 Q -- to make sure that there's nothing in this --

14 A Sure.

15 MR. JIRAK: I'll -- we'll accept that this
16 is the settlement, subject to check. Ms. Harrington
17 has no ability to look at a 40-page document and
18 confirm it's the actual Settlement Agreement.

19 CHAIR MITCHELL: All right, Mr. West, I'm
20 going to stop you right there. We're going to end for
21 the day today.

22 But before we go off the record, a couple of
23 things, because this proceeding is going to last
24 longer than we anticipated, unless I hear an objection

1 from any of the parties, we're -- Commissioner
2 Brown-Bland who has a conflict tomorrow will
3 participate in this proceeding by reading the record.

4 We will be back in the hearing room tomorrow
5 at 9:00 o'clock to begin. Thank you. We are
6 adjourned.

7 (The proceedings were adjourned, and will resume at
8 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2019)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KIM T. MITCHELL, 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.

*Kim T. Mitchell*_____

Kim T. Mitchell
Court Reporter