



**NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC STAFF
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

October 9, 2019

Ms. Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

Re: Docket No. E-2, Sub 1215 – Duke Energy Progress, LLC – Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct 4.6 Miles of New 230-kV Transmission Line in New Hanover County, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Campbell:

On August 13, 2019, Duke Energy Progress, LLC, (DEP or the Company) filed an application pursuant to G.S. 62-100 et seq., for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct a transmission line in New Hanover County, North Carolina. The Public Staff has reviewed the application filed by Duke Energy Progress in the above-captioned docket. As part of its investigation, the Public Staff met, reviewed the application, and submitted data requests to the Company. The application was submitted to the State Clearinghouse on August 15, 2019. As of the date of the filing of this letter the Clearinghouse has not indicated when its review will be complete.

Based upon our investigation of the application, exhibits, and other matters of record, the Public Staff believes that Duke Energy Progress has complied with the requirements of G.S. 62-102, and has demonstrated as required by G.S. 62-105 that the proposed transmission line is necessary and that when compared with reasonable alternative courses of action, construction of the line in the proposed location is reasonable, that the estimated costs associated with the line are

Executive Director (919) 733-2435	Communications (919) 733-5610	Economic Research (919) 733-2267	Legal (919) 733-6110	Transportation (919) 733-7766
Accounting (919) 733-4279	Consumer Services (919) 733-9277	Electric (919) 733-2267	Natural Gas (919) 733-4326	Water (919) 733-5610

4326 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300
An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

OFFICIAL COPY

Oct 09 2019

Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk
Page Two
October 9, 2019

reasonable, that the impact of the line on the environment is justified considering the state of available technology, and that the environmental compatibility, public convenience, and necessity requires the transmission line. While we believe that DEP has demonstrated the need for this transmission line, the Public Staff encourages the Company, in future proceedings, to consider a full range of options, including non-wires alternatives such as energy storage, when needs are identified on its transmission system.

Based on its investigation and review of the application, the Public Staff recommends that the Commission issue the certificate requested in this proceeding after receipt of a letter from the State Clearinghouse stating no further State Clearinghouse review action by the Commission is required for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

Sincerely,

Electronically submitted
/s/ Heather D. Fennell
Staff Attorney
heather.fennell@psncuc.nc.gov

HDF/cla

c: Parties of Record