



**NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC STAFF
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

August 2, 2022

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

Re: Docket No. E-2, Sub 1289 – Duke Energy Progress, LLC – Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct Approximately 2.1 Miles of New 230-kV Transmission Line in Wake County, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Dunston:

On April 14, 2022, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP or the Company) filed an application pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-100 *et seq.*, for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct 2.1 miles of new 230kV transmission line in Wake County, North Carolina. The Public Staff has reviewed the application filed by DEP in the above-captioned docket as well as responses to data requests submitted to the Company.

On April 22, 2022, the Commission issued its Ordering Scheduling Hearings and Requiring Public Notice (Scheduling Order). The Scheduling Order provided for a public witness hearing to be held on August 22, 2022, and evidentiary hearing to be held on September 12, 2022; however, the Scheduling Order further stated that the public witness hearing may be canceled if no significant protests are filed with the Commission on or before August 2, 2022.

On May 9, 2022, the application was submitted to the State Clearinghouse. On June 14, 2022, the Clearinghouse filed a letter indicating that no further action was required for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

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Based upon our investigation of the application, exhibits, and other matters of record, the Public Staff believes that DEP has complied with the requirements of N.C.G.S §. 62-102 and has demonstrated as required by N.C.G.S §. 62-105 that: (1) the proposed transmission line is necessary; (2) when compared with reasonable alternative courses of action, construction of the line in the proposed location is reasonable; (3) the estimated costs associated with the line are reasonable; (4) the impact of the line on the environment is justified considering the state of available technology; and (5) the environmental compatibility, public convenience, and necessity requires the transmission line.

Therefore, the Public Staff files this letter in lieu of testimony and recommends that the Commission issue the certificate requested in this proceeding.

Further, as of the date and time of this filing, no protests have been filed with the Commission in this docket. As such, the Public Staff recommends that if no protests are filed on August 2, 2022, the public witness hearing be canceled and would not object to a Company-filed motion to cancel the hearing.

Sincerely,

Electronically submitted
/s/ William E. H. Creech
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cc: Parties of Record