## BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1276

In the Matter of: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's Request to Initiate Technical Conference Pursuant to Commission Rule R1-17B(c) PETITION TO INTERVENE AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE

PURSUANT TO Commission Rule R1-19 and the *Order Scheduling Technical Conference and Setting Procedures for Technical Conference* issued September 14, 2022 in the above captioned docket, the North Carolina Justice Center (NC Justice Center), the North Carolina Housing Coalition (NC Housing Coalition), Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), and National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) (collectively, Petitioners), through counsel, file this petition to intervene and notice of intent to participate in the technical conference in the above-captioned docket, and provide the following information in support of their petition and notice:

1. On September 8, 2022, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), pursuant to Rule R1-17B(c), filed with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) a notice to initiate a technical conference regarding the projected transmission and distribution projects to be included in DEC's proposed general rate case application and performance-based regulation application (PBR Application). As indicated in the notice, DEC intends to file the general rate case

application, which will include the PBR Application and the projected transmission and distribution projects, on or after January 6, 2023.

- 2. The NC Justice Center is a nonprofit research and advocacy organization whose mission is to eliminate poverty in North Carolina by ensuring that every household in the state has access to the resources, services, and fair treatment it needs to achieve economic security. The NC Justice Center has offices at 224 S. Dawson Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601.
- 3. The NC Justice Center has previously intervened on behalf of low-income North Carolinians in proceedings involving DEC before the Commission, including recent general rate cases in Docket Nos. E-7, Sub 1146 and E-7, Sub 1214 and annual Demand-side Management/Energy Efficiency (DSM/EE) rider proceedings in Docket Nos. E-7, Sub 1130, E-7, Sub 1164, E-7, Sub 1192, E-7, Sub 1230, E-7, Sub 1249, and E-7, Sub 1265.
- 4. The NC Justice Center and the low-income consumers whose interests it represents have a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding. Many of the low-income consumers represented by the NC Justice Center are customers of DEC and will therefore be subject to the direct impacts of DEC's general rate case application, including costs relating to DEC's planned transmission and distribution projects that it intends to include in the PBR Application. The NC Justice Center seeks to intervene in this proceeding and participate in the technical conference to ensure that its interests in promoting efficient and least-cost utility planning and its concerns about the energy burdens ultimately borne by low-income households are represented.

- 5. The NC Housing Coalition is a nonprofit membership organization with the goal of ensuring that every North Carolinian has access to safe, decent, and affordable housing. The principal address of the NC Housing Coalition is 3608 University Drive, Suite 203, Durham, NC 27707.
- 6. The NC Housing Coalition has previously intervened on behalf of low-income North Carolinians in proceedings involving DEC before the Commission, including recent general rate cases in Docket Nos. E-7, Sub 1146 and E-7, Sub 1214 and annual DSM/EE rider proceedings in Docket Nos. E-7, Sub 1230, E-7, Sub 1249, and E-7 Sub 1265.
- 7. The NC Housing Coalition and the low-income consumers whose interests it represents have a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding. The NC Housing Coalition has members who are customers of DEC and are therefore subject to the direct impacts of DEC's general rate case application, including costs relating to DEC's planned transmission and distribution projects that it intends to include in the PBR Application. The NC Housing Coalition works with its members to reduce the energy burdens faced by low-income residents. In addition, as part of its efforts to improve access to affordable housing for low-income individuals, the NC Housing Coalition advocates for fair and affordable utility rates and charges. The NC Housing Coalition seeks to intervene in this proceeding and participate in the technical conference to ensure that its members' interests in promoting efficient and least-cost utility planning and its concerns about the energy burdens ultimately borne by low-income households are represented.

- 8. SACE is a regional nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote responsible energy choices that address global climate change and ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. SACE has its principal office in Tennessee, with a mailing address of Post Office Box 1842, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37901. SACE also has offices in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- 9. SACE and its members have a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding. SACE has members who are customers of DEC and will therefore be subject to the direct impacts of DEC's general rate case application, including costs relating to DEC's planned transmission and distribution projects that it intends to include in the PBR Application. SACE seeks to intervene in this proceeding and participate in the technical conference to ensure that its members' interests in promoting transmission and distribution investments that will help advance the deployment of low-cost, clean, renewable energy in an affordable manner are represented.
- 10. SACE has previously intervened in DEC rate cases in Docket Nos. E-7, Sub 1146, and E-7, Sub 1214. In addition, SACE frequently appears before the Commission as an intervenor in DSM/EE rider proceedings, including in Docket Nos. E-7, Sub 979, E-7, Sub 1001, E-7, Sub 1031, E-7, Sub 1050, E-7, Sub 1073, E-7, Sub 1105, E-7, Sub 1130, E-7, Sub 1164, E-7, Sub 1192, E-7, Sub 1230, E-7, Sub 1249, and E-7, Sub 1265. SACE also participated actively and was a party to the stipulations of settlement reached in Docket Nos. E-7, Sub 831 and E-7, Sub 1032.

- 11. NRDC is a national environmental organization with over thirty years' experience working on state energy policy, including utility regulation and energy efficiency. NRDC works to promote renewable energy and to advocate for the passage and implementation of clean energy standards and other policies that expand the market for wind and solar power. NRDC also works to promote energy efficiency and conducts research, partners with manufacturers, and advocates for policies that create dramatic energy savings. Likewise, NRDC encourages states to fully account for efficiency potential when they forecast whether they need new power plants or transmission lines in order to avoid costly infrastructure and lower customers' bills. NRDC's headquarters are located at 40 West 20th Street, New York, New York 10011. NRDC also has an office in Asheville, North Carolina.
- 12. NRDC and its North Carolina members have a strong interest in ensuring that North Carolina adopts environmentally sound and sustainable energy policies. NRDC has members who are customers of DEC and will therefore be subject to the direct impacts of DEC's general rate case application, including costs relating to DEC's planned transmission and distribution projects that it intends to include in the PBR Application. NRDC seeks to intervene in this proceeding and participate in the technical conference to ensure that its members' interests in promoting transmission and distribution investments that will help advance the deployment of low-cost, clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency in an affordable manner are represented.
- NRDC has previously intervened in DEC rate cases in Docket Nos.
  Sub 1146, and E-7, Sub 1214. In addition, NRDC appeared before the

Commission as an intervenor in the most recent annual DEC DSM/EE proceeding in Docket No. E-7, Sub 1265.

14. The attorneys for the Petitioners to whom all correspondence and filings in this docket should be addressed are:

David Neal Munashe Magarira Southern Environmental Law Center 601 West Rosemary Street, Suite 220 Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Service by electronic mail pursuant to NCUC Rule R1-39 is preferred and should be addressed to dneal@selcnc.org and mmagarira@selcnc.org.

WHEREFORE, Petitioners request that they be allowed to intervene in this docket and provide the Commission with notice of their intent to participate in the technical conference regarding DEC's projected transmission and distribution projects.

Respectfully submitted this the 18th day of October, 2022.

/s/ David L. Neal David L. Neal N.C. Bar No. 27992 dneal@selcnc.org

Munashe Magarira N.C. Bar No. 47904 mmagarira@selcnc.org

Southern Environmental Law Center 601 West Rosemary Street, Suite 220 Chapel Hill, NC 27516 Telephone: (919) 967-1450

Fax: (919) 929-9421

Attorneys for North Carolina Justice Center, North Carolina Housing Coalition, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and National Resources Defense Council

## VERIFICATION

I, Munashe Magarira, verify that the contents of the foregoing Petition to Intervene and Notice of Intent to Participate are true to the best of my knowledge, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true. I am authorized to sign this verification on behalf of North Carolina Justice Center, North Carolina Housing Coalition, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and National Resources Defense Council.

Munashe Magarira

Date: October 1, 2022

, North Carolina

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by Munashe Magarira

This the 🗵 day of October, 2022

KATHLEEN LOCKWOOD

, Notary Public

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that all parties of record have been served with the foregoing Petition to Intervene and Notice of Intent to Participate either by electronic mail or by deposit in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid.

This the 18th day of October, 2022.

/s/ David L. Neal David L. Neal