

1 PLACE: Via Videoconference
2 DATE: Wednesday, May 26, 2021
3 DOCKET NO.: E-100, Sub 165
4 TIME: 6:00 P.M. TO 7:48 P.M.
5 BEFORE: Commissioner Daniel G. Clodfelter, Presiding
6 Chair Charlotte A. Mitchell
7 Commissioner ToNola D. Brown-Bland
8 Commissioner Lyons Gray
9 Commissioner Kimberly W. Duffley
10 Commissioner Jeffrey A. Hughes
11 Commissioner Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.

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IN THE MATTER OF:
Generic Electric - 2020 Biennial
Integrated Resource Plan Reports and
Related 2020 REPS Compliance Plans

Volume 6

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Madam
3 Court Reporter, if you will please open the record and
4 everyone please come to order. I am Commissioner Dan
5 Clodfelter, and I will be presiding at tonight's public
6 hearing. Joining me this evening via Webex -- and please
7 raise your hand when I call your name so folks watching
8 can see you -- are Commission Chair Charlotte Mitchell,
9 Commissioners ToNola Brown-Bland, Lyons Gray, Kim
10 Duffley, Jeff Hughes, and Floyd McKissick, Jr.

11 We will now call for hearing Docket Number E-
12 100, Sub 165, which is In the Matter of the 2020 Biennial
13 Integrated Resource Plan Reports and the Related 2020
14 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Compliance Plans for
15 Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, and Virginia
16 Electric and Power Company which does business as
17 Dominion Energy North Carolina, and we will refer to them
18 hereafter as Dominion.

19 Before we proceed further and as is required by
20 the State Government Ethics Act, I remind the members of
21 the Commission of our duty to avoid conflicts of
22 interest, and inquire at this time whether any
23 Commissioner has a known conflict of interest or an
24 appearance of such conflict with respect to these

1 proceedings?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Madam Court Reporter,
4 please let the record reflect that no Commissioner
5 notified me or identified any such conflicts.

6 North Carolina General Statute Section 62-
7 110.1(c) requires that the Commission develop, publicize,
8 and keep current an analysis of the long-range needs for
9 electricity in North Carolina. In order to meet this
10 requirement, the Commission conducts an annual
11 investigation into the Integrated Resource Plans that are
12 prepared by each of the three principal electric
13 utilities under the Commission's jurisdiction.

14 In addition to that review, the Commission Rule
15 R8-67(b) requires the electric public utilities to file a
16 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Plan, which is
17 referred to for shorthand as the REPS Compliance Plan, as
18 part of their Integrated Resource Reports.

19 Integrated Resource Planning, sometimes
20 referred to in shorthand as IRP, is intended to identify
21 the electric resource generating options that can be
22 obtained at the lowest cost to ratepayers, consistent
23 with safe, adequate, and reliable service. The
24 Utilities' Integrated Resource Plans must consider

1 conservation, energy efficiency, load management, as well
2 as supply-side alternatives in the selection of their
3 resource portfolios.

4 In North Carolina the Commission does not
5 approve or disapprove the Utilities' Integrated Resource
6 Plans. Instead, it takes them into consideration in its
7 own long-range planning for electricity service in North
8 Carolina. It also takes them into consideration in
9 determining applications for Certificates of Public
10 Convenience and Necessity to construct new electric
11 generating facilities and in other proceedings where
12 approval of utility programs or investments is required
13 by law.

14 On May the 1st, 2020, Virginia Electric Power
15 Company, doing business as Dominion, filed its 2020 IRP
16 and its 2020 REPS Compliance Plan.

17 On September 1st, 2020, Duke Energy Progress
18 and Duke Energy Carolinas filed their 2020 IRPs and 2020
19 REPS Compliance Plans.

20 At this time the Public Staff's participation
21 as a party in this proceeding is recognized pursuant to
22 General Statute 62-15(d), and in addition, the
23 participation of the North Carolina Attorney General is
24 recognized pursuant to his Notice of Intervention filed

1 under General Statute 62-20.

2 Quite a number of organizations and parties
3 petitioned to intervene and were granted formal status by
4 the Commission as Intervenors. It's a very, very long
5 list. It's available on the Clerk's docket, and I'm not
6 going to take your time this evening to read all of the
7 Intervenor parties in the case, but there are quite a
8 number of them.

9 On February 2nd of this year the Commission
10 issued an Order scheduling a public hearing to be
11 conducted by Webex originally for March 16th for the
12 purpose of taking public witness testimony with respect
13 to the IRPs and the REPS Compliance Plan. The Order
14 required that members of the public desiring to testify
15 must register in advance with the Public Staff no later
16 than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11th, 2021.

17 The Public Staff received more than 200
18 requests to testify at the original March 16 hearing
19 date, and although we were very pleased to have this
20 level of hearing, we simply decided that we could not
21 accommodate such a large number of witnesses on a single
22 evening. That presented logistical and technical
23 challenges we couldn't overcome. Therefore, the
24 Commission issued an Order on March 12 stating that

1 persons registered to testify would be instead heard on a
2 series of sessions over several dates, and on March 26 we
3 issued an Order establishing six dates in April and May
4 for the purpose of these public hearings. We directed
5 the Public Staff to evenly schedule the witnesses across
6 the six evenings and to notify each individual of the
7 date he or she was to testify.

8 And so that brings us to tonight, which is the
9 sixth and final such session and to the proceeding we
10 will follow this evening to take your testimony.

11 Over the past year we have conducted several
12 public hearings using remote technology and have learned
13 that those hearings can sometimes take longer and
14 sometimes be more complicated than when we conduct them
15 in person. And so in the interest of being able to hear
16 everyone that's scheduled to testify this evening, please
17 respect and follow the following procedures and rules.

18 First, the Public Staff has grouped the
19 witnesses and scheduled each group for a specific date.
20 The group scheduled for tonight's date are the only
21 witnesses the Commission will hear testimony from this
22 evening, and once we've heard from all the registered
23 witnesses, the hearing will adjourn for the evening.

24 Second, as you call in, if you are going to

1 testify, you will be on the telephone line, but you will
2 not be seen on the video screen available to viewers on
3 YouTube. If you are participating in the hearing or if
4 you are observing the hearing tonight, you can watch the
5 Commission and the representatives of the parties via the
6 YouTube link. That link is available on the Commission's
7 website. If you go to the homepage and click on the tab
8 for hearings, you'll find a link to remote hearings, and
9 it will give you a link to the web--- to the YouTube
10 site.

11 The Public Staff will call this evening's
12 witnesses in the order in which they signed up to speak.
13 When your name is called, at that point our meeting
14 technician will unmute your phone line. When you hear
15 two beeps on your phone line, that means your line is
16 unmuted, and I will then ask you if you can hear me and
17 just to -- we will try to determine to make sure we can
18 hear you okay.

19 At that point I will then ask you to take an
20 oath of affirmation, after which you've taken the oath --
21 after you've taken the oath I'll ask you to state your
22 name, give us your address, and tell us which company
23 provides your electric service.

24 After that, you will have an opportunity to

1 make your statement. You will have five minutes to
2 present your testimony. Due to the number of witnesses
3 we have and the requirements of the remote technology,
4 I'm going to have to ask you to abide by that five-minute
5 time. Lisa Needham, whom you can't see on the screen,
6 but she's with us, she's one of our meeting technicians,
7 she will be managing the time, and she will give us an
8 audible signal so we can hear it when your five minutes
9 is up.

10 In order to conserve your time, if you have
11 something to say that you believe has already been said
12 by another speaker, you can simply refer to the earlier
13 speaker's testimony and say you support that, and that
14 lets you use your five minutes to say something different
15 or new that hasn't previously been said.

16 If you have more information that you wish us
17 to consider than you can provide in the allotted five
18 minutes, please remember that you can always file a
19 supplemental written statement with the Clerk, and that
20 written statement will become part of the record of these
21 proceedings. If you have documents or other written
22 materials you want us to consider, that's the only way
23 we're really going to be able to take a look at those
24 documents.

1 You'll be speaking to the Commissioners whom
2 you will be able to see on the YouTube link. After
3 you've finished your statement, please don't hang up
4 immediately. The Commissioners and the attorneys for the
5 parties will have an opportunity first to ask you
6 questions before you conclude your presentation, so
7 please don't hang up the line until I've let you know
8 whether any Commissioner or party has a question for you.

9 When you've completed your statement and you've
10 responded to any questions that you may have been asked,
11 your phone line will again be placed on mute. At that
12 point you're free to disconnect and go on about your
13 business for the evening if you choose to do so; however,
14 you can remain on the line and continue to listen to the
15 proceedings or, as I said, you can observe them on
16 YouTube.

17 And finally, just a couple points to help us
18 avoid problems with the technology this evening. If
19 you're using a portable cordless phone or you're using a
20 smartphone or a cell phone as your telephone link, please
21 be sure your device is fully charged or that you can keep
22 it charged up during the course of the evening. You
23 don't want your phone to go dead if you are one of the
24 later speakers on tonight's list.

1 If you are watching us on YouTube and you are
2 also connected by the telephone line, please remember to
3 keep your computer audio on mute in order to avoid
4 feedback on your telephone line. And if you're using
5 your computer to dial in to the audio for the hearing,
6 please keep your computer audio on mute except when
7 you've been called upon and you are speaking. And last
8 of all, please be sure the volume level on the device you
9 are using is set high enough so that you can be heard.

10 All right. Those are the procedures for this
11 evening, and I'll now call upon counsel for the parties
12 to announce their appearances on the record, beginning
13 with the Utility companies.

14 MR. KAYLOR: Good evening, members of the
15 Commission. Robert Kaylor appearing on behalf of Duke
16 Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good evening, Mr.
18 Kaylor.

19 MS. KELLS: Good evening. Andrea Kells with
20 the law firm of McGuireWoods appearing on behalf of
21 Dominion Energy North Carolina.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: And good evening, Ms.
23 Kells. Ms. Force, I think you're next.

24 MS. FORCE: Good evening, Commissioners.

1 Margaret Force with the Attorney General's Office
2 representing the Using and Consuming Public.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Glad to have you with
4 us. I do not see any representatives of any of the
5 Intervenor parties. If there are any of the Intervenor
6 parties who are appearing tonight and wish to make a
7 formal appearance, please let me know now. If not, I'll
8 call upon the Public Staff to make their appearance.

9 MS. EDMONDSON: Good evening, Commissioner.
10 I'm Lucy Edmondson with the Public Staff on behalf of the
11 Using and Consuming Public. Also appearing with me is
12 Robert Josey and Layla Cummings.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Glad to have you all
14 three. Let me ask the parties, are there any procedural
15 or other preliminary matters we need to take up before we
16 hear from the witnesses?

17 MR. KAYLOR: None from Duke.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Hearing
19 none from anyone, Ms. Edmondson, I will call upon you now
20 to call your first witness, please.

21 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The first witness we've
22 identified is number three on our list, Michael Wasmer.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Mr. Wasmer,
24 can you hear me?

1 MR. WASMER: Yes, I can.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's great, and we
3 can hear you, so let me give you the oath now.

4 MICHAEL WASMER; Having first been duly affirmed,
5 Testified as follows:

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Again, give us
7 your name and your address, and tell us who provides your
8 electric service, and then you may proceed with your
9 statement.

10 THE WITNESS: My name is Mike Wasmer. I'm a
11 resident of Asheville, North Carolina. My utility
12 provider is Duke Energy Progress.

13 STATEMENT BY MR. WASMER:

14 Thank you for the opportunity to speak this
15 evening. What I have to say is that Duke Energy is
16 conducting business as usual amidst a rapidly changing
17 world. While you can find Duke Energy participating and
18 hosting numerous conferences regarding the future of grid
19 technology, advanced energy storage, and integrated
20 demand management, you'll find nothing of the sort being
21 implemented in North Carolina. Duke knows that the
22 future is in distribution management, not generation
23 assets.

24 The proposed methane turbines represent a step

1 in the wrong direction. Duke is taking a well-worn route
2 of producing excess generation assets locally to build
3 their regional exports. The people of North Carolina
4 deserve an energy future they can be proud of, not a
5 string of stranded assets instituted by a private
6 monopoly operating a public utility. Thank you for your
7 time.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Wasmer, thank you
9 for appearing this evening. Let's see before you go if
10 anyone has any questions they want to ask.

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any
13 questions, so Mr. Wasmer, thank you for joining us.
14 You're free to go or to stay as you choose.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

18 MS. EDMONDSON: The next witness is the fourth
19 on the list, Amelia Covington.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
21 Covington, can you hear me okay?

22 MS. COVINGTON: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's great. We can
24 hear you, too, so let me administer the oath, please.

1 AMELIA COVINGTON; Having first been duly affirmed,
2 Testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Start with
4 your name, your --

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Start
7 with your name, your address, and your electric service
8 provider, and then you may proceed.

9 THE WITNESS: So my name is Amelia Covington.
10 I'm currently residing at 510 Brent Road, Raleigh. And
11 I'm not sure exactly of the details. I share energy
12 providers with some roommates that help pay, but it is
13 Duke Energy.

14 STATEMENT BY MS. COVINGTON:

15 So thank you for the opportunity to speak. I
16 am also a field organizer with a local environmental
17 organization and nonprofit, Climate Action NC, in
18 Raleigh, North Carolina, and I'm calling in opposition to
19 Duke Energy's 2020 Integrated Resource Plan.

20 We are in the midst of a climate crisis,
21 evidenced by rising tides, hotter summers, and more
22 extreme weather events. Duke's IRP does not adequately
23 address this climate crisis, and it's past time to get
24 real with our climate goals. As has been said before,

1 our house is already on fire.

2 Duke Energy can and must invest in clean
3 renewable energy now. And as we address the climate
4 crisis, we must also do so with equity in mind. And,
5 again, Duke Energy's plan fails in this regard.

6 Even outside of a major pandemic, families
7 already have struggled to pay costly energy bills.
8 Instead of lessening the energy burden on low-income and
9 vulnerable customers, Duke's IRPs propose to
10 significantly increase customers' bills.

11 Duke Energy's IRPs need to equitably address
12 the intersecting crises that frontline communities are
13 facing. Ditch coal, stop all new gas investments, and
14 seriously invest in clean renewable energy now. We have
15 no time to waste. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
17 Covington. Does anyone have questions for Ms. Covington?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any. Ms.
20 Covington, thank you for being with us and speaking this
21 evening.

22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.

1 Edmondson?

2 MS. EDMONDSON: The next witness is sixth on
3 the list, Barron Northrup.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right.

5 MR. NORTHRUP: Good evening.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good evening, Mr.
7 Northrup. You're coming through loud and clear, so let
8 me swear you in.

9 BARRON NORTHRUP; Having first been duly affirmed,
10 Testified as follows:

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

12 THE WITNESS: My name is Barron Northrup. I
13 live at 1 Stegall Lane, Asheville, North Carolina, where
14 Duke Energy Progress provides electricity.

15 STATEMENT BY MR. NORTHRUP:

16 The year is 2060. I have just reached
17 retirement age, and I'm looking forward to spending the
18 year with my grandchildren. They, in turn, will retire
19 around 2130. I want them to enjoy a healthy planet. I
20 hope that they will be able to depend on Duke Energy as I
21 have been able to. Unfortunately, this future is not
22 guaranteed for them. At the moment it's not even
23 realistic. Regrettably, Duke has a record of skewing the
24 balance of our planet versus their profits in favor of

1 their own wallets.

2 As one example, in 2019, Duke sued the
3 Department of Environmental Quality when ordered to clean
4 up toxic coal ash from leaking pits. I support the
5 numerous previous testimonies elucidating Duke's record
6 of dodging accountability. By now the pattern is clear
7 to you. Duke chronically promises environmental
8 responsibility, then breaks those promises, secure in the
9 knowledge that they can pass the entirety of their
10 punishment off to their customers. Commissioners, your
11 decision regarding their desired price hike is the
12 decision whether to allow Duke to get away with this.

13 Duke's strategy makes perfect sense if you
14 ignore morality. Duke is the nation's largest investor-
15 owned electric utility. Duke's top 10 stakeholders,
16 holding a combined sum of over 260 million shares
17 totaling over \$23.6 billion, are mostly based in Boston
18 and New York City. Though we did hear from a Duke
19 shareholder in a previous hearing, neither he nor a
20 single other North Carolinian wields any kind of real
21 financial influence with Duke, so the only financial
22 stake Duke has in our future in young North Carolinians
23 like me is the price you allow them to extract out of our
24 state and into the hands of faraway investors.

1 (Witness excused.)

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

3 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is
4 seventh on the list, Beth Hansen.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
6 Hansen, can you hear me okay?

7 MS. HANSEN: Yes. Can you hear me?

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can, indeed. Thank
9 you. So we'll swear you in now.

10 BETH HANSEN; Having first been duly affirmed,
11 Testified as follows:

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
13 proceed.

14 THE WITNESS: I'm Beth Hansen, 3722 Amber
15 Drive, Wilmington, North Carolina, and my -- and Duke
16 Energy Progress provides my electricity.

17 STATEMENT BY MS. HANSEN:

18 We're in the midst of a climate crisis. In
19 Wilmington we have witnessed firsthand results of climate
20 change, more obstructive hurricanes, increasing sunny day
21 coastal flooding, and more dangerously hot days.

22 As we enter another hurricane season, many are
23 still recovering from past storms. Hurricane Matthew in
24 2016 was a 500-year flood event. Two years later

1 Hurricane Florence resulted in a 1,000-year flood. We
2 cannot afford not to act now to drastically reduce carbon
3 emissions.

4 In North Carolina, municipalities, industries,
5 business, and individuals are stepping up to reduce our
6 carbon footprint. However, we are all tied to Duke
7 Energy's choices. The IRPs' increasing reliance on
8 natural gas for the next 15 years is unacceptable. The
9 IRP should include a scenario with much more energy
10 efficiency, storage, and renewables in the two base
11 cases. Energy efficiency should be the top priority. It
12 saves customers money and reduces greenhouse gas
13 emissions. Both energy efficiency and demand response
14 reduce the need for gas peaker plants, but in the two
15 base cases, energy efficiency and demand response do not
16 increase from the current 3 percent of total capacity.

17 The IRPs need to include more energy efficiency
18 across their customer base, with a particular emphasis on
19 low- and moderate-income ratepayers. Many households in
20 our state are energy burdened. According to the
21 Department of Energy, in Wilmington alone, almost 8,000
22 low-income renters spend an average of 13 percent of
23 their income on energy bills, while 1,600 low-income
24 homeowners spend 19 percent of their income on energy

1 bills. This is an unacceptable burden. Greatly
2 expanding the Helping Home Fund and offering pay as you
3 stay financing are two options.

4 More energy storage. Duke raises concerns
5 about storage being unproven at large scale with
6 increased system risk. However, large-scale storage will
7 be a proven technology within the decade. US Energy
8 Storage Association stated in an August 2020 whitepaper
9 that it sees the potential for 100 GW of new energy
10 storage by 2030. Given this growth, the scenarios with 4
11 to 7 GW of storage by 2035 looks very feasible.

12 Utility Dive just reported on Monday that Duke
13 is partnering with Malta, Inc. on a study on the
14 viability of converting retired coal units to long-
15 duration energy storage systems, so why so little storage
16 in their plan?

17 More solar and add wind. In the base of carbon
18 policy, there are only modest increases in solar, very
19 limited onshore wind, and no offshore wind for 15 years.
20 This makes no sense from a climate perspective or from a
21 least-cost perspective.

22 Eastern North Carolina has great potential for
23 more solar and both onshore and offshore wind. Solar
24 plus storage costs continue to fall, and wind can be an

1 important balancing source for winter demand. Duke's
2 neighbor utility to the north, Dominion, is already
3 investing heavily in offshore wind. Let's bring wind
4 energy jobs to North Carolina.

5 Much less natural gas. Natural gas is no
6 longer needed as a bridge fuel in the transition to clean
7 energy. Battery storage plus renewables provide a
8 reliable alternative. The buildout of new natural gas in
9 the two base case scenarios will lock North Carolina into
10 greenhouse-gas-emitting fossil fuels for decades or leave
11 the ratepayers with an enormous bill for stranded assets.
12 Renewables and storage are cost-effective alternatives
13 now. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you for coming
15 to speak to us, Ms. Hansen. Do any of the parties or
16 Commissioners have questions for Ms. Hansen?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any, so
19 Ms. Hansen, thank you again. You're welcome to stay with
20 us, or if you've got other business to attend to, that's
21 fine, too. So thank you for being here.

22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

1 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is Edwin
2 Sido, number 13 on the list.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. I found
4 him. Mr. Sido, are you here?

5 MR. SIDO: Yes, I am.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let me swear
7 you in, please.

8 EDWIN SIDO; Having first been duly affirmed,
9 Testified as follows:

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
11 proceed, sir.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is Edwin Sido. I
13 live in Gastonia, North Carolina.

14 STATEMENT BY MR. SIDO:

15 I want to thank the Commissioners for holding
16 this -- these necessary and public hearings, I think. My
17 testimony is very -- more personal. I agree with all the
18 above that have testified.

19 In 2018 I bought solar panels for my house, and
20 since that date till this present date, I've produced
21 over 29 MW. Every month I always -- I produce a surplus
22 amount each month, more than what we actually utilize,
23 and Duke have a way of resetting the clock, i.e., taking
24 off all the surplus amount that we have used.

1 Now, to some extent I believe that's -- in a
2 nicer way to put it, it's a form of stealing because we
3 have produced more power than we -- than we actually use
4 and we are creating a surplus, but Duke take that surplus
5 from us every year.

6 Also, I believe that the -- the tax credits
7 which were offered to us from Duke for providing solar
8 panels never materialized, and this was due to the
9 installation date and also the notification to Duke when
10 we installed the solar panels.

11 I want to say that in this climate, especially
12 when we heard about Texas and what happened there, you
13 know, coal and fossil fuels is old history, and I think
14 Duke are answering to their company, their dividends, you
15 know, their shareholders, but I believe there are two
16 types of dividends. There are dividends which is
17 financial and there are dividends which are ethical,
18 moral and, you know, I don't think Duke are addressing
19 those other dividends.

20 I think that the job market for renewable
21 energy is vast, and they should shut down all coal
22 plants. They should allow community solar. What else?
23 I think that's just about it.

24 I want to thank the Commission for taking the

1 time to listen to me. I do appreciate it. I'll answer
2 any questions.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Sido, thank you
4 for addressing us this evening. If you would like to
5 contact the Public Staff or the Company, they may be able
6 to talk with you about the tax credit issue and the reset
7 on the solar program. There are a lot of details about
8 that program, and they may be able to talk to you -- talk
9 with you about some of the issues that you've been having
10 with your rooftop solar.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let's see if there
13 are questions for Mr. Sido from the parties or from
14 Commissioners.

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any, so
17 again, sir, thank you. We have your phone number, but
18 can you give us your address in Gastonia? I do not have
19 that.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes. It's 2548 Kinmere Drive,
21 Gastonia, North Carolina, 28056.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, sir.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

1 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is 17th
2 on the list, Emma Childs.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
4 Childs, can you hear me okay? Ms. Childs, are you there?

5 MR. McCOY: Commissioner, we skipped somebody.
6 Let's see here. It's Elizabeth Adams.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Great. So the
8 next witness is Elizabeth Adams. Ms. Adams, can you hear
9 me okay?

10 MS. ADAMS: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Let me
12 give you the oath.

13 ELIZABETH ADAMS; Having first been duly affirmed,
14 Testified as follows:

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Again,
16 let me remind you, when you give us your address, please
17 give us your complete address so we've got that for the
18 court reporter, please. So name, address, and your
19 electric provider. Ms. Adams, you may go.

20 THE WITNESS: I'm Elizabeth Adams, 103 Larkspur
21 Lane, Cary, North Carolina, 27513. I am a Duke Energy
22 Progress customer, but I also have been subscribed to a
23 hundred percent renewable energy plan through Arcadia
24 Power since 2017, and I also use a residential time of

1 use rate to reduce my monthly bill.

2 STATEMENT BY MS. ADAMS:

3 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on
4 Duke Energy's 15-year plan. In my view, they need to
5 revise it to quickly transition to a hundred percent
6 clean renewable energy and storage for everything, as per
7 Mark Z. Jacobson's book that was just published in 2021.

8 I understand that you will not be approving the
9 IRP, but simply accepting them or sending them back for
10 more work, so I hope that you will ask for them to rework
11 their plan, and also if you could ask for a hearing where
12 expert witnesses could question the Utilities on the
13 record and answer so many of our unanswered questions.

14 To improve resiliency, we must carefully
15 respond to disruptions due to unexpected events and
16 severe storms. I live in Cary, North Carolina. Our most
17 recent power outage was on April 6th, 2021. Power
18 outages that occur when everyone works and attends school
19 at home cause major disruptions for families. Some
20 neighborhoods in Cary are impacted more than others. The
21 increasing frequency of power outages cause families to
22 consider getting a backup power solution such as
23 purchasing a household diesel generator.

24 My neighbor has one that starts up, and as soon

1 as the power goes off, it runs until the power is
2 restored. This diesel generator produces harmful PM2.5
3 emissions and loud noises that impact their neighbors.
4 If everyone in my neighborhood installed a backup diesel
5 generator, we will have thousands of them running. And
6 Cary is rapidly developing high-density housing, which
7 will mean that so many more people will be exposed to
8 poor air quality that occurs during power outages.

9 A better solution would be to install a battery
10 backup system that could power the critical
11 infrastructure of our homes, and this could generate no
12 harmful emissions while protecting food and our access to
13 jobs and school.

14 A neighbor of mine has some serious lung
15 condition that -- where she has to call the ambulance
16 several times a year because she can't breathe. I don't
17 think that my neighbor with a diesel generator has any
18 idea that they are increasing her risk of going to the
19 hospital.

20 The best solution is to electrify everything in
21 our homes and to power those homes with a hundred percent
22 renewable energy. We can only do this if Duke's IRP plan
23 eliminates coal and gas from the grid and transitions to
24 a hundred percent renewable energy. To reduce my air

1 pollution and carbon emissions, I switched to driving an
2 all-electric Nissan Leaf in 2010, we performed energy
3 efficiency upgrades in 2012, installed solar panels on
4 our roof in 2014.

5 In 2018 we suffered damage to our home due to a
6 leak in our wall due to a combination of faulty water
7 lines and also Cary increasing the water pressure in the
8 lines to accommodate new development. We replaced all of
9 our water lines in our home and replaced an inefficient
10 gas hot water heater with a tankless water heater. My
11 preference would be to replace it with an electric heat
12 pump water heater, but the plumber didn't have any
13 experience on how to install that type of system.

14 My goal is to remove all natural gas from my
15 home and run on a hundred percent renewable energy. This
16 will greatly improve the air quality inside my home and
17 reduce the risk of my husband having a second heart
18 attack.

19 Please protect the health of communities who
20 are a hundred percent reliant on Duke Energy for their
21 electricity. Please ask Duke Energy to revise their IRP
22 to quickly transition to a hundred percent renewable
23 energy with solar and battery storage and provide
24 homeowners and builders incentives to build and upgrade

1 all homes, buildings, and vehicles to be all electric and
2 energy efficient.

3 Decentralizing the power grid would also be
4 helpful, as smaller areas would be affected and would
5 help deal with cyber crimes that could cripple the grid.
6 I purchase community solar through Arcadia Energy, but I
7 believe it would be better if I could invest in my
8 community, local community solar instead.

9 I gave examples of how I'm reducing my carbon
10 and air pollution emissions, knowing that our town
11 leaders and businesses have to make these same decisions.
12 The IRP plan for Duke Energy should include funding to
13 our community colleges to train workers and provide
14 incentives to municipalities to transition to a hundred
15 percent renewable energy and electrifying everything.

16 The faster we reduce our carbon and air
17 pollution emissions, the faster we will reduce the risk
18 of severe and frequent disruptions due to climate change.
19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms. Adams.
21 Do representatives of the parties or the Commissioners
22 have any questions?

23 (No response.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: If not, Ms. Adams,

1 thank you for appearing to testify this evening. We
2 appreciate it.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Uh-huh.

4 (Witness excused.)

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Ms.
6 Edmondson --

7 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- are we back to Ms.
9 Childs now?

10 MS. EDMONDSON: Well, actually, we are -- I'd
11 like to go back to the first name on the list, Leo Amon.
12 We had some -- he was the young man whose mother
13 testified in the last hearing, and he had not -- he
14 actually was listed for the second hearing, so we have
15 gotten him on tonight. We just had a little difficulty
16 identifying the phone from which he was calling, but I
17 think we should have him on the line. So Leo Amon.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. All right.
19 Mr. Amon, can you hear me?

20 MR. AMON: Okay. Yes, I can hear you, but
21 please pronounce it Amon. That's how you're supposed to
22 pronounce it.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I will pronounce it
24 Amon. I have a name that's difficult to pronounce, too,

1 so I'll pronounce yours Amon, exactly as you wish.

2 MR. AMON: All right. Thanks.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let me ask you to
4 take an oath here.

5 LEO AMON; Having first been duly affirmed,
6 Testified as follows:

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Mr. Amon?

8 THE WITNESS: Never tell a lie.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Absolutely right, Mr.
10 Amon. You got it. Tell us your address and tell us who
11 provides electricity at your house.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay. So I -- I have two -- 6620
13 Cashion Road and 1738 Lombardy Circle.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: And my energy --

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. What city?

17 THE WITNESS: -- is Duke Energy and Piedmont
18 Gas which I regret having. I wish I didn't, but, you
19 know, it's the only option. So --

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. What city do
21 you live in, sir?

22 THE WITNESS: I live in Charlotte. Well, no.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

24 THE WITNESS: Charlotte and Huntersville.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

2 THE WITNESS: The two addresses are, you
3 know --

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: They're close by. I
5 live in Charlotte, so I know you're not far away --

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- in Huntersville.

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. All right, Mr.
10 Amon, can you give us your statement, please, sir?

11 THE WITNESS: All right.

12 STATEMENT BY MR. AMON:

13 Well, I want to start off with how Duke Energy
14 is being the problem of the situation. Basically, they
15 claim to have raised -- this is a little bit ago, but I'm
16 going to still bring it up -- they claim to have doubled
17 their natural gas, which was for -- well, I mean -- wait,
18 I'm very confused here. They doubled their renewable
19 energy. Yes? Well, guess what? It went from 1 percent
20 to 2 percent or 2 percent to 4 percent. That -- those
21 are my two estimates because I heard one of those and I'm
22 taking off, but I'm not totally sure.

23 So also IRP, I'm going to explain that. IRP is
24 not good enough. It doesn't include enough renewables.

1 It has just way too much natural gas, which they claim is
2 very clean. No, no, it really isn't. And if you would
3 like to know, renewables are way cheaper. Not from when
4 you look at more expensive at first glance because you
5 can't just mine away a renewable, but let me explain
6 those issues. You got health insurance. We all got
7 health insurance. Those companies, they got to pay out
8 on stuff, and less health problems equals less money --
9 more money saved. So nobody likes that. You need to
10 switch to renewables. It's that simple.

11 Really, if I'm going -- if I'm going to really
12 say something here, I'm not vetoing Duke's plan here
13 because they don't have enough renewables. You need to
14 veto it, I swear to God, because like this is for my
15 future, other children's future. You have grandchildren
16 or children, probably, and you want their future to be
17 good. I hope you do. I mean, that would be nice.
18 Because with Duke, Duke just does not care. Duke really
19 could not care less about your children. All they care
20 about is profits, because they probably do have children,
21 yeah, sure, but they can pay away their children.

22 See, the thing about my family, we're not
23 totally rich and stuff. You know, my mom just can't pay
24 me \$10,000 every time I need a little bit of money. So,

1 yeah, you know. You know, you're really just tearing
2 apart everything if you don't veto this. I'm talking
3 tearing apart everything, everyone's futures. I hope --
4 I hope for good futures for people because it's like if
5 you don't, that's bad, because I don't care about money
6 that much. As long as I can have like a normal life and
7 have fun in my life and I can live a life, for God's
8 sake, that would be amazing. That just -- and I believe
9 you can do that because clean air is kind of essential if
10 you want to live, huh? Yeah.

11 So I want to live a normal life and I want
12 other kids -- I want kids my age, I want friends. I want
13 friends. I'm not totally poor like not wealthy at all.
14 I have a little bit of money. I'm like weirdly middle
15 class. But I know people who don't have that much money
16 and it's just really, really bad for them because they
17 can't just like get rid of it as easily. It's like my
18 friends could die because of this.

19 So if you really care enough, maybe you would
20 veto it. All right. Well, that's about it. That's
21 about it.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Amon.
23 Let's see if anyone wants to ask you a question. Does
24 anyone have any questions?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Well, I have one for
3 you. Where are you in school now?

4 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm in school at Pioneer
5 Springs, one of the best schools I've been to because
6 I've only been to two, including Pioneer. So I honestly
7 think the best school. It's -- we're very involved with
8 nature and stuff and, you know, I like it.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: It's a very good
10 school. I've visited there before. You're at a good
11 school. So continue your studies and --

12 THE WITNESS: Oh, I am.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- thank you for
14 coming to the hearing tonight and speaking to us. We
15 appreciate it.

16 THE WITNESS: All right.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
19 Edmondson?

20 MS. EDMONDSON: All right. Thank you,
21 Commissioner. The next speaker is number 19 on our list.
22 It's Gary Smith.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. We don't
24 have Emma Childs you had called earlier?

1 MS. EDMONDSON: No. I called the wrong name
2 and I misspoke.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. I'm sorry.
4 Okay. Gary Smith, can you hear me?

5 MR. SMITH: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can. You're coming
7 through loud and clear --

8 MR. SMITH: Very good.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- so let me swear
10 you in.

11 GARY SMITH; Having first been duly affirmed,
12 Testified as follows:

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
14 continue.

15 THE WITNESS: Good evening. I am a Duke
16 Progress customer. I live in Raleigh. My address is
17 2712 Lochmore Drive in Raleigh.

18 STATEMENT BY MR. SMITH:

19 I'm also a member of Community United Church of
20 Christ in Raleigh and a volunteer with North Carolina
21 Interfaith Power & Light, which is a faith-based
22 organization concerned with climate change and its impact
23 on people.

24 I'm also a Ph.D. chemist, and I became familiar

1 with climate change through the scientific literature.
2 Through this I've come to see that climate change is
3 real, and is having and will have profoundly serious
4 effects on us all. And the devastating impacts of
5 climate change, that is, heat, storms, rising tides,
6 reduced food production, ocean pH changes, will be the
7 greatest on those people with the least resources. With
8 all that, we have to stop climate change for God's
9 people.

10 As you know, the primary cause of climate
11 change is combustion of fossil fuels, coal, oil, natural
12 gas, which produces the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.
13 So we have to stop burning fossil fuels as soon as
14 possible.

15 Most of Duke Energy's electricity is produced from
16 burning fossil fuels, and so in turn, Duke Energy must
17 stop burning them as well as soon as possible.

18 So what do we do about that? Governor Cooper
19 has provided a Clean Energy Plan to address this. As
20 part of it, it requires the electric utility sector to
21 reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 70 percent from its
22 2005 levels by 2030.

23 Now, turning to the Duke IRP, of the six Duke
24 -- of the six scenarios in the Duke Energy Progress and

1 the Duke Energy Carolinas 2020 IRP, only two of those
2 scenarios provide for this 70 percent reduction. Those
3 are Plans D and E. These plans require innovation, and
4 Duke readily admits that, but if they are the best way to
5 reach a 70 percent reduction, then Duke has to adopt one
6 of them and then work to attain that 70 percent carbon
7 dioxide reduction by 2030.

8 Duke has stated that it hopes to be carbon
9 neutral by 2050, as the IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on
10 Climate Change, recommends. This is great, but 2050 is
11 beyond the 2020 IRP, so for Duke to arrive at the 2050
12 carbon neutral that it wants to do, intermediate goals
13 are needed now that fit within the 2020 IRP. And the 70
14 percent CO2 reduction by 2030 recommended by the
15 Governor's plan is a very appropriate 2030 goal.

16 My concern, though, is that a 70 percent carbon
17 dioxide reduction by 2030 is actually not a serious
18 proposal because Plans D and E are being interpreted as
19 more expensive than the least innovative plan in the IRP,
20 Plan A. Sadly, Plan A falls well short of the 70 percent
21 CO2 reduction by 2030 or, in fact, by 2035.

22 My concern is that since they are thought to be
23 more expensive, the least-cost energy constraint that
24 Duke is under will force Duke Energy to adopt Plan A

1 going forward, with long-term consequences of meeting
2 their 2050 goal. However, if Plan A is indeed least
3 cost, it is only so because many costs of fossil fuels on
4 society, public health, and climate are being
5 externalized in the least-cost calculation. Going
6 forward, calculation of least cost must change to include
7 these externalities. Under this new scenario I'm
8 convinced that plans like D or E will, in fact, become
9 more appropriate and possibly meet the least-cost
10 scenario.

11 So in closing, I have two asks. One, I'm
12 asking the Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy Carolina
13 IRPs to embrace the 70 percent CO2 reduction by 2030.
14 And I'm asking you, the North Carolina Utility
15 Commission, to instruct Duke Energy to include the costs
16 to society, public health, and our climate in their
17 least-cost scenarios. Thank you very much for listening.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Smith,
19 for participating in the hearing this evening. Does
20 anyone have questions for Mr. Smith?

21 MR. KAYLOR: Commissioner Clodfelter, I do.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes, Mr. Kaylor.

23 MR. KAYLOR: Mr. Smith, this is Bob Kaylor. I
24 walk by your house twice a day with my beagle, Elvis, and

1 his brother.

2 THE WITNESS: I know that. Hi, Bob.

3 MR. KAYLOR: Just wanted to say hello. Thank
4 you.

5 THE WITNESS: Hi, Bob.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You'll have to do
7 that in the form of a question, Mr. Kaylor.

8 MR. KAYLOR: Mr. Smith, I believe you have
9 solar panels and you ride your bike every day; is that
10 correct?

11 THE WITNESS: That's correct. Our solar panels
12 -- our solar panels produce about 80 percent of the power
13 in our house, and as we saw this morning, I did a 40-mile
14 ride this morning.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
16 Smith, thank you for being with us this evening. We
17 appreciate it.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you for listening. Have a
19 good evening.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: And maybe one day
21 you'll be able to upgrade your neighbors.

22 THE WITNESS: I'll keep one, Bob.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

1 MS. EDMONDSON: The next witness is number 20
2 on the list, Greg Yost.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr. Yost,
4 can you hear me?

5 MR. YOST: I can.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. I can hear
7 you, so let me administer the oath to you.

8 GREG YOST; Having first been duly affirmed,
9 Testified as follows:

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
11 proceed, sir.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. And my name is
13 Greg Yost. I live at 1314 Puncheon Fork Road in Mars
14 Hill, North Carolina. My electricity provider is French
15 Broad Electric Co-op, and they get their power, I
16 believe, from Duke Energy Progress.

17 STATEMENT BY MR. YOST:

18 Thank you all for the opportunity to comment.
19 As a commenter in the final session, I won't reiterate
20 excellent observations made previously by the
21 shortcomings of this IRP or the corrosive effects of Duke
22 Energy lobbying money. Instead, I'd like to use my time
23 to focus your attention on the need for evidentiary
24 hearings for this and all future IRPs.

1 Speaking to you over the phone during these
2 sessions, the other speakers and I are keenly aware that
3 our carefully prepared words are indulged merely as an
4 act of courtesy, but this token nod to the value of
5 criticism and debate, minus a substantive opportunity for
6 intervenors to cross examine the claims and assumptions
7 Duke Energy writes into its IRPs, is a sham which fails
8 to meet the needs of the moment.

9 I ask you to consider with a cynical eye the
10 history of our experiment with regulated monopoly in,
11 say, the last 30 years. To meet its energy needs, many
12 years ago the State of North Carolina thought it wiser to
13 work a single draft horse in each of its energy fields,
14 so to speak, hoping to maintain them in a well-ordered,
15 rational fashion. Decades later, however, one horse has
16 taken the bit, cannibalized its neighbors, and
17 transformed itself into a multi-state, multi-billion
18 dollar behemoth, openly scornful of citizens and
19 ratepayers reaching to recover the reins. This horse
20 goes where it wants, eats what it wants, steps on what it
21 wants.

22 An absurd level of deference is paid to Duke
23 Energy by the State's regulatory apparatus, and this is
24 perhaps most clearly seen in the lack of the simplest,

1 most fundamental, and common sense safeguard for
2 accountability, an evidentiary hearing for IRPs.

3 Its absence allows Duke to waive away serious
4 well-founded objections as easily as a horse might twitch
5 its tail to swat away an annoying fly. Essentially
6 unchallenged and unchallengeable 400-page long IRP
7 submissions, dense with obfuscation and self-serving
8 assumptions, bolster the appearance of the inevitability
9 of Duke's spending and building preferences. Without
10 evidentiary hearings, its facts and logic need never be
11 put to the test.

12 In my opinion, this is an extraordinary and
13 unjustifiable abdication of NCUC's responsibility to
14 exercise oversight of the regulated utilities on behalf
15 of state citizens. We're talking about a context of
16 incentives for this Company, which we all know are
17 totally upside down, which reward their most egregious
18 capital expenditures with near windfall levels of return
19 on investment and use captive ratepayers to shield them
20 from predictably high levels of price volatility in the
21 future for the poor fuel choices their gas plant
22 expansions are committing us to today.

23 How much longer will Duke Energy succeed in
24 grifting 21st century ratepayers with their 20th century

1 business model? I don't know, but in the meantime only
2 the public utilities and the -- only the Utilities
3 Commission and its Public Staff can hold them accountable
4 for their current plans which would stoke the climate
5 crisis and strand billions of dollars in assets.

6 I ask, therefore, that you schedule an
7 evidentiary hearing for this IRP. Make hard evidence and
8 open arguments, including expert witness testimony, make
9 these the standards by which North Carolina's power and
10 energy roadmaps are adopted. And thank you for taking my
11 comments into consideration.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Yost.
13 Questions from the Commission or from the parties for Mr.
14 Yost?

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Seeing none, Mr.
17 Yost, thank you again for appearing to testify this
18 evening. We appreciate it.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20 (Witness excused.)

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

22 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is
23 number 21 on the list, and I may well mispronounce the
24 name and I apologize in advance, Hwa Huang.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I'm not sure I can
2 guess.

3 MR. HUANG: Huang. Sorry.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Huang, can you
5 hear me?

6 MR. HUANG: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you just
8 fine.

9 MR. HUANG: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Very well.

11 MR. HUANG: By the way, my first name is Hwa.
12 Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Hwa.

14 HWA HUANG; Having first been duly affirmed,
15 Testified as follows:

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
17 proceed, sir.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Hwa Huang, 7401
19 Ebenezer Church Road, Raleigh, 27612, North Carolina.

20 And my family from this address is a Duke Energy
21 customer.

22 STATEMENT BY MR. HUANG:

23 Thank you for this opportunity for this public
24 hearing. Before I proceed, I would like to reiterate

1 previous speakers' requests for evidentiary hearing with
2 expert witnesses. And I also understand that you will
3 not be approving the IRPs, but simply accepting them or
4 sending them back for more work, so please do not let
5 Duke Energy misuse your role by saying that their plans
6 were approved by you.

7 Now, I am speaking as a strong advocate for the
8 need for clean renewable energy. As of 2019, my family
9 has bought an electric hybrid which has saved us a
10 tremendous amount of money that would have otherwise gone
11 towards having to put gas in our vehicle almost every
12 week. However, I am also aware that it is not enough to
13 just go electric on transportation. The bigger question
14 here is like with the electrification of everything else
15 in our lives, what is the source of that electricity? I
16 know that if what allows me to recharge my car comes
17 primarily from coal or gas infrastructure, then I'm still
18 contributing to the worsening of the climate crisis we
19 are all facing right now.

20 As it stands, Duke Energy's IRP does not
21 include firm commitments of coal plant retirement. Its
22 planning may actually increase use of coal in the event
23 that fossil fuel gas prices spike or if there are supply
24 chain issues. This is also indicated by IRP's lack of

1 plan for financing economic transition for workers that
2 impact the communities, like coal plant closures.

3 Furthermore, the six scenarios in Duke's IRP
4 included the base case of 10 to 13 new gas plants,
5 totaling over 10 GW of new capacity, and only one
6 scenario does not include massive fossil gas buildout.
7 And even then, the no-new-gas scenario still extends
8 operation of coal and inflates cost of cleaner energy
9 options. There's also no scenario in the IRP that models
10 no-new-gas trajectory that invests in energy efficiency
11 and solar.

12 Duke Energy also failed to address methane
13 emission, which is at least 80 times more potent than CO2
14 as greenhouse gas. The impact of methane needs to be
15 taken into consideration. Duke needs to start over with
16 this IRP and actually incorporate all cost effective
17 energy efficiency measures and model impactful steps such
18 as considering efficiency as an alternative to new
19 generation assets. This is so Duke will find true least-
20 cost ways that will meet the grid's needs and maximize
21 all energy efficiency options prior to building any new
22 generation and keep the cost low for all ratepayers.

23 This is also so that Duke will proactively
24 reduce energy burden of its customers, especially low- to

1 moderate-income customers. I understand investing in
2 something new takes risk, but as time goes on we are
3 getting more and more information indicating a stop in
4 gas investment and giving 100 percent to renewable is
5 going to be a net good, a net positive.

6 There is no reason for Duke Energy to continue
7 investing in coal and gas infrastructures. The coal
8 plants are uneconomic, and an additional investment of 13
9 more gas plants will lock North Carolina into fossil fuel
10 energy for decades when we need to phase out. Meanwhile,
11 a recent study show that Carolinas could boost renewable
12 energy to 66 percent in North Carolina, while decreasing
13 cost to ratepayers.

14 Duke Energy has no reason to build any new
15 fossil gas plants, especially when many of them will be
16 obsolete in a few years as solar and storage become
17 cheaper than new gas plants. Actually, we just had a
18 solid example for why we need to stop investing in dirty
19 fuels. We just experienced a fossil fuel panic in North
20 Carolina because of a cyber attack on Colonial Pipeline.
21 This is a sign that we need to stop relying on carbon-
22 based fuel as a sole source of energy. Renewables allow
23 for people to be self reliant, and as homes go to this
24 energy, it is also going to be much cheaper than imports.

1 Edmondson?

2 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is 24th
3 on the list, Karen Lauterbach.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
5 Lauterbach, are you there?

6 MS. LAUTERBACH: Yes. Can you hear me?

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you just
8 fine. Let me swear you in.

9 KAREN LAUTERBACH; Having first been duly affirmed,
10 Testified as follows:

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
12 proceed, ma'am.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is Karen
14 Lauterbach. My address is 14 Sweetbriar Lane, Chapel
15 Hill, North Carolina, 27514, and my energy provider is
16 Duke Energy.

17 STATEMENT BY MS. LAUTERBACH:

18 And I'd like to thank the Utilities Commission
19 for holding this hearing and for giving North Carolina
20 residents a chance to comment.

21 I've lived in North Carolina for over 40 years,
22 and our state is blessed with many natural resources,
23 including sun, wind, forest, and land. That means we
24 could lead the nation in converting to renewable energy

1 resources like solar and wind. It also means we could
2 lead the way in carbon sequestration by using our forest
3 and agriculture land to sequester carbon.

4 We are blessed to have so many opportunities to
5 lead the way in creating a sustainable world. That is
6 why I was dismayed to learn that Duke Energy's Integrated
7 Resource Plan does little to make use of the resources
8 our state has to offer and that it continues to rely
9 heavily on fossil fuels. Now is not the time to be
10 locking in more fossil fuel plants. It doesn't make
11 climate sense or economic sense.

12 I have a grandson who lives in California, but
13 who lived with us for much of the last year after the
14 intense fires and smoke forced him and his parents from
15 their home in Pacifica. Then the pandemic worsened and
16 they stayed with us until April. So I had plenty of time
17 to hear from them about what it was like to live under
18 conditions that will become more common with climate
19 change. We need to end our reliance on fossil fuel now
20 and begin building a more sustainable future.

21 My husband and I have done our part to switch
22 to renewable energy. We installed solar panels and
23 battery storage in 2006, but Duke Energy did all it could
24 to discourage early adopters like us. They bought energy

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Ms. Edmondson?

2 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is 25th
3 on the list, Kathleen Leibowitz.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

5 MS. LEIBOWITZ: Hello.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Leibowitz, I can
7 hear you just fine.

8 MS. LEIBOWITZ: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let me swear you in.
10 Hold on.

11 KATHLEEN LEIBOWITZ; Having first been duly affirmed,
12 Testified as follows:

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. You may
14 continue.

15 THE WITNESS: My name is Kathleen Leibowitz. I
16 live at 1612 Oberlin Road, Apartment 2, Raleigh, North
17 Carolina, 27608, and our power company is Duke Power.

18 STATEMENT BY MS. LEIBOWITZ:

19 And I just want to support all the previous
20 speakers. They've all given excellent information. And
21 I would say that I just want Duke Power to go back and
22 start over with their IRP plan, come up with renewables.
23 We just have so many other options than fossil fuel. So
24 they need to start again and see what they can do and

1 make it healthier. Thank you very much.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.

3 Leibowitz. Does anyone have questions they wish to ask?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: No questions, then,
6 so thank you again for appearing, Ms. Leibowitz.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Ms. Edmondson?

10 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Next witness is 26 on the
11 list, Lisa Hicks.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
13 Hicks, can you hear me? Ms. Hicks?

14 (No response.)

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. McCoy, do we have
16 Ms. Hicks?

17 MR. MCCOY: We do, but she is not responding.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Let's
19 temporarily -- we'll move past her temporarily since we
20 have a line for her but she's not responding. So Ms.
21 Edmondson, who do we have next?

22 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. We'll go to -- is Ms.
23 Hicks there? Okay. Next is number 27, Maple Osterbrink.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Is that

1 Mr. or Ms. Osterbrink?

2 MS. OSTERBRINK: Can you hear me now?

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Osterbrink, can
4 you hear me?

5 MS. OSTERBRINK: Can you hear me?

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you fine.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. OSTERBRINK: Okay. Great. Yeah. I'm
9 here.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Let me swear you in.

11 MAPLE OSTERBRINK; Having first been duly affirmed,
12 Testified as follows:

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
14 proceed, then.

15 THE WITNESS: My name -- do you want me to say
16 my name and where I live?

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Give us your address
18 -- yes.

19 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Start my time over if you
20 started it already. Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Well, the timer won't
22 start your time until after we've gotten the
23 preliminaries out of the way.

24 THE WITNESS: Okay. Yeah. That's what I'm

1 saying.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Give us your
3 address and tell us who -- go ahead.

4 THE WITNESS: Okay. 603 Martin Luther King
5 Road -- Street -- I don't know -- Road -- Jr. Boulevard.
6 It's a boulevard. That's right. I forgot my address
7 there for a second. 603 Martin Luther King Boulevard,
8 Chapel Hill. And, you know, I moved from Durham a year
9 ago, and it doesn't matter. It's all the same company.
10 I'm with Duke.

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Give us your
12 statement now.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay.

14 STATEMENT BY MS. OSTERBRINK:

15 I'm going to say first that we do need an
16 evidentiary hearing because I found out that Duke strikes
17 comments so that they don't have to respond to them, and
18 they're about leaks and climate issues and things that
19 they don't want to deal with or fix, so that's why
20 everybody that remembered in our testimonies has been
21 asking for the evidentiary hearing because in the past
22 things don't get done because Duke blocks the truth. In
23 fact, they struck testimony by one of the nation's top
24 several noted gas special scientists, Dr. Howard of

1 Cornell University, so his testimony did not get
2 addressed or included, and to me, that's criminal right
3 there.

4 My reverend friend told me that in 2017, faith
5 leaders met with Duke, important people of Duke -- I
6 don't know if they were executives -- in Charlotte at a
7 meeting about the climate, and that one of the Duke
8 people stated that they could have implemented renewables
9 a lot more than they have, but they don't do it because
10 they don't have to. So there you go.

11 I want to echo my respective solar champion,
12 Nancy LaPlaca, as she testified last week that you are
13 our only chance for some sense to be brought into this
14 big picture of North Carolina energy, dirty energy,
15 mostly.

16 And the Legislature is just pathetic because
17 they do things like deciding no car inspection is needed
18 in 26 counties out of a hundred counties that we have
19 because the air quality was improving. Well, hello, why
20 do they think the air quality is improving? So we need a
21 lot of help here to do some sensible things in North
22 Carolina.

23 And a trusted Utility of today, in moving -- or
24 have gone to managing power, not controlling the

1 decisions on where that power comes from. So they've got
2 to get with it, like a lot of people have said.

3 I did find out that you Commissioners don't
4 approve or disapprove exactly the plans, but you accept
5 or don't accept an IRP for planning purposes. So we can
6 get our words right and ask you to not accept whatever
7 has been thrown in front of you here. Many states have
8 rejected proposed IRPs lately. I think about 16 states.
9 I believe I read that.

10 I'm talking about the number six tonight, that
11 six states are stuck with Duke Energy. There's a lot of
12 closed-door meetings lately leaving many people out of
13 the negotiations, with a lot of Republicans only, also,
14 that it's very controversial. That was just last week
15 that came out in Utility Dive, that the future of our
16 power in this state is behind closed doors. That's
17 unacceptable.

18 And, you know, you know they've bribed for so
19 long, it's like the bad Kool-Aid, and we don't have to
20 drink that Kool-Aid anymore. It's a crisis. As Greta
21 would say, let's act like this is a crisis.

22 Need to retire those coal plants that they keep
23 sticking gizmos on to keep claiming them as assets. We
24 can't replace those with gas, either, because the

1 converted plants, 3 to 5 percent less efficient than the
2 old coal plants that they're changing over. So that's
3 just not acceptable.

4 In my view, it comes down to how much money is
5 the monopoly allowed to keep and claiming it for their
6 shareholders? Duke netted 1.1 billion last year. Lynn
7 Good still receives like 9 million, \$14 million as
8 bonuses. I think those numbers are correct, but it
9 doesn't show everything that's out there floating around,
10 convincing people that they're okay when they're not.

11 That's where our renewable energy investment
12 money could come out of, the extra mega profits. I know
13 this to be more in legislative territory, not you, but
14 why not mention it for discussion and put it out there,
15 that maybe there can be a fair minimum profit and an
16 actual ceiling on profits for us captured ratepayers.
17 That's what they call us in the monopoly world. We are
18 captured, and we are.

19 So free us so that we can also have solar like
20 the big companies that Duke caters to for big profits on
21 fancy solar farms, and then keep us in grief and misery
22 and getting cancer from the coal ash. You know, we're
23 those people over there. We get less and we suffer.

24 I live a mile from the awful UNC coal plant

1 that that was built before the 1900s. Six other coal
2 plants not quite as old as that remain in North Carolina,
3 and and they want to keep that until 2049. It's
4 unacceptable. They've all poisoned drinking water
5 nearby, like the Dan River disaster, and Duke only had to
6 pay a fourth of Dan River damages, \$8 billion. Why
7 didn't they have to pay the whole thing? I just don't
8 understand, and me and a lot of the public, how can this
9 stuff happen? When you hear about corporate
10 accountability these days, and we need -- we're beyond
11 that. We need over the top with that.

12 So the six options are garbage. Whoa, that's a
13 loud -- that's loud.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Osterbrink, can
15 you wrap up?

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I can hear. Okay. So
17 (inaudible due to audio difficulties) in renewable energy
18 because it's not okay what they've been doing. It's got
19 to change, and we need you to help. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
21 Osterbrink. Do members of the Commission or parties have
22 questions for Ms. Osterbrink?

23 (No response.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Thank you for

1 appearing to testify this evening. We appreciate it.

2 THE WITNESS: Appearing audio. Thank you.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

5 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is
6 number 28, Nancy Neff.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms. Neff,
8 can you hear me?

9 MS. NEFF: Good evening.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good evening. I can
11 hear --

12 MS. NEFF: I sure can.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you fine.
14 Let me swear you in, please.

15 MS. NEFF: Okay.

16 NANCY NEFF; Having first been duly affirmed,
17 Testified as follows:

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
19 proceed, ma'am.

20 THE WITNESS: My name is Nancy Neff. I live at
21 10989 Hat Creek Lane in Davidson. Duke Energy is our
22 electric provider. And thank you for the opportunity to
23 speak this evening.

24 STATEMENT BY MS. NEFF:

1 evening.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

5 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Next witness is number
6 29, Nicole Gabriel.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
8 Gabriel, can you hear me?

9 MS. GABRIEL: Yes. Hello.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Hello. Let
11 me swear you in, please.

12 NICOLE GABRIEL; Having first been duly affirmed,
13 Testified as follows:

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
15 proceed.

16 THE WITNESS: My name is Nicole Gabriel. I
17 live at 27 Suncrest Court in Durham.

18 STATEMENT BY MS. GABRIEL:

19 Commissioners, I want to begin by thanking you
20 for hearing the voice of the people and creating multiple
21 hearings for every witness to be heard.

22 I've lived in North Carolina for most of my
23 life, and I think it's because I grew up here that I care
24 so deeply about this planet. How remarkable is the

1 miracle of life on this floating rock? Earth is the
2 perfect distance from the sun to be warmed without being
3 burnt. Our atmosphere is the perfect of mixture of
4 breathable matter, and our soil is full of nutrients for
5 life-giving trees to flourish.

6 Human beings have had the grace of 2 million
7 years to evolve to a point of such safety and comfort
8 that we can be allowed the struggle of tripping over dog
9 toys or finding spoiled produce in the back of the
10 fridge, and our planet just goes on turning day after
11 day, recycling our water, recycling rock material over
12 and over to constantly renew itself. Every plant and
13 animal on this planet plays an integral role, including
14 humans.

15 Unfortunately, over the last hundreds of years
16 we have been doing damage to our planet that strips our
17 naturally perfect earth matter, poisons our water, and
18 destroys our very special atmosphere. Due to fracking,
19 Oklahoma experiences earthquakes that should never happen
20 there because they aren't on a tectonic plate boundary.
21 Due to overheating and ocean acidification, our coral
22 reefs are bleaching, which in many cases causes
23 irreparable damage. This planet is more than our home.
24 It's part of us and we are part of it.

1 I love eating fast food, but I know I can't do
2 it for more than five times a month because it causes me
3 physical pain. Our reliance on coal is no different.
4 Our planet can only take so much before it becomes sick.
5 The planet fever is rising as it tries to kill off the
6 nuisances which cause it pain. And the irony of it all
7 is that the planet will make it all right in the end.
8 It's all the living things that will cease to exist.

9 Too long have human beings been focused on
10 nothing outside of what is directly within our sight.
11 While the coronavirus was ravaging countries on the other
12 side of the planet, most people here looked on with a
13 distant concern, and it wasn't until we started having
14 cases in this country that US citizens became truly
15 worried. We cannot allow climate change to be just
16 another thing that we do nothing about until it's too
17 late simply because it doesn't affect us as severely as
18 it is affecting our brothers and sisters of the equator
19 or creatures who literally can't do anything about it.
20 This is an issue that affects all of us, and the longer
21 we wait to realize that, the more dire the situation
22 grows. How would you like to know that you lived during
23 a time when countless species ceased to exist simply
24 because we didn't care enough to do anything about it?

1 Please reject the Duke Energy and Dominion
2 IRPs. We finally have a federal plan to put us on the
3 path to healing the planet, and all of these IRPs
4 demonstrate that they have no intention to get on track
5 with that plan. We do not want any new fossil fuel
6 plants to be opened up. That is an exceedingly clear
7 message that we are moving backwards.

8 Governor Cooper's Clean Energy Plan is to reach
9 70 percent clean energy by 2030, and these IRPs are not
10 set up to meet that goal. Yes, clean energy will come
11 with a financial cost, but is it really greater than the
12 cost of our beautiful Outer Banks being flooded? Is it
13 really greater than the cost of our children thinking
14 that polar bears and elephants are mythical creatures?

15 I'm a video game developer, and I spend my days
16 imagining fantastical worlds for people to explore, but
17 everything I create is based on the very real magic and
18 miracles that exist on this planet in the form of life.
19 What we have here is something so special, and we cannot
20 take it for granted.

21 Again, thank you very much for your openness
22 and for your listening, and please hold an evidentiary
23 hearing. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Gabriel, thank

1 you. Are there questions for Ms. Gabriel this evening
2 from anyone?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: If not, then Ms.
5 Gabriel, thank you very much for your comments tonight.
6 We appreciate it.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Ms.
10 Edmondson?

11 MS. EDMONDSON: The next witness is number 31,
12 Roger Coates.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
14 Coates, can you hear me out there?

15 MR. COATES: I can. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great, great. I can
17 hear you, too, so I'll give you the oath now.

18 ROGER COATES; Having first been duly affirmed,
19 Testified as follows:

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
21 proceed, sir.

22 THE WITNESS: My name is Roger Coates. I live
23 at 5616 Glenkirk Road here in Charlotte. Duke Energy has
24 been our supplier for the 26 years that we've been here.

1 STATEMENT BY MR. COATES:

2 I want to thank the Commissioners for putting
3 up with so much different testimony from so many people
4 over six different nights, apparently. And I offer by
5 way of contribution to your good will a cessation of the
6 early part of my testimony since I endorse so much of
7 what's been said before, and I want to cut to the chase
8 on some new information that I think I can add to the
9 consideration you're bringing to this issue.

10 The 2020 International Energy Agency Report
11 compares what they call the levelized cost of electricity
12 generation in 243 plants in 24 countries in which they
13 factor in a cost of carbon dioxide emission of a modest
14 amount of \$30 per ton to their considerations, and based
15 on that levelized cost analysis in those 243 plants
16 around the world, electricity generation cost of low-
17 carbon technologies in almost all countries, specifically
18 including the United States, are increasingly below the
19 cost of fossil-fuel generated electricity.

20 To be specific, the report shows that onshore
21 wind generation is the lowest cost generation technology
22 available, utility-scale solar is very cost competitive
23 with onshore wind, the cost of offshore wind is currently
24 about the same as natural gas generated electricity, and

1 electricity is the high-cost option among all these
2 choices.

3 While this report analyzes data from many
4 plants in many countries, these conclusions apply
5 specifically to the United States, along with all but
6 four other countries. The trends in electric power
7 generation, factoring in modest CO2 emission cost,
8 clearly indicate a future of renewables playing a
9 dominant role in the electricity generation business.

10 So why is Duke continuing to plan for a leading
11 role for fossil fuels? I understand, for instance, that
12 90 percent of the electricity Duke generates in Indiana,
13 for instance, is from coal, with the last coal-fired
14 plant to close in 2049. Well, the desired returns on
15 capital (inaudible due to technical difficulties) do with
16 this illogical strategy. With prices charged to
17 ratepayers set to recover all capital and operating cost,
18 plus an 11 percent markup, Duke would seem to have little
19 incentive to strive for lower-cost generation
20 technologies.

21 In fact, heavily engineered expensive coal and
22 gas plants effectively add to Duke investment returns.
23 That may be good for Duke shareholders, but it's
24 certainly not in the best long-term interest of most of

1 Duke's other shareholders. And in that context, I note
2 that the Duke spokesman's statement in dismissing
3 Elliott's proposal to divide Duke three ways said that
4 Duke will always advocate for the best long-term interest
5 of its shareholders and stakeholders.

6 I would suggest the Utility Commissioners,
7 instead of focusing entirely on the written IRP documents
8 in your deliberations, undertake three related tasks.
9 Spend some time looking at the best generation,
10 especially in Europe which is generally ahead of the
11 United States in use of integrated multi-sourced electric
12 generation technologies. In your IRP review, concentrate
13 on the technical models underlying the IRP document
14 language for an understanding of their proposed business
15 strategy for the planning period. Seek, in collaboration
16 with Duke officials, a significant increase in the
17 planned investments in electric efficiency, which is the
18 cheapest source of generated electricity. And then
19 finally, adding in what others have said, we need an
20 evidentiary hearing with this Integrated Resources Plan.
21 A collaborative process sounds great, but it clearly is
22 not the answer to the questions that we all have.

23 In conclusion, I thank you very much for your
24 willingness to hear such a large number of concerned

1 citizens and really appreciate your patience. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.

3 Coates, for staying with us this evening and your
4 patience. We appreciate your testimony this evening.

5 Are there questions for Mr. Coates?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't have any, so
8 Mr. Coates, again, thank you for being with us this
9 evening.

10 THE WITNESS: I appreciate it.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

13 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is
14 number 32, Scott Cline.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
16 Cline, can you hear me?

17 MR. CLINE: Yes. I can hear you.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let me swear
19 you in first, sir.

20 MR. CLINE: Okay.

21 SCOTT CLINE; Having first been duly affirmed,
22 Testified as follows:

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. You may
24 continue.

1 THE WITNESS: Hello. My name is Scott Cline.
2 I live at 2924 Oberlin Road in Raleigh, and I am Duke
3 Energy Progress as well as a Dominion customer.

4 STATEMENT BY MR. CLINE:

5 And I'd like to just support all of the
6 previous comments that have been made. I am 34 years
7 old, have lived in North Carolina my whole life. I grew
8 up in the Boy Scouts and spent about every month camping,
9 backpacking in Western North Carolina, water trips in
10 Eastern North Carolina, developed a deep love and
11 appreciation for nature and the beauty of our state and
12 all of its people and ecosystems.

13 And I hope that the Commission can listen
14 closely to all of the statements that have been presented
15 and to allow for the evidentiary hearing, as has been
16 called for, to reject the Dominion and Duke Energy IRPs,
17 and to call on Duke to not build any new fracked gas
18 plants and fossil fuel infrastructure,

19 The climate crisis is because of our
20 generation, and I hope we can rise to the occasion and
21 provide a clean energy future for our state and planet.
22 Thank you for taking time and for listening to my
23 comments tonight.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Cline,

1 for presenting your testimony this evening. Are there
2 questions for Mr. Cline?

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I see none, so thank
5 you again, Mr. Cline, for being with us.

6 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

9 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is the
10 last one that we have been able to identify through the
11 telephone number. It's number 37, Ed Ablard. After this
12 we have two lines that we have not identified that we'll
13 need to check on.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Mr. Ablard,
15 can you hear me?

16 MR. ABLARD: I can.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. I can hear
18 you fine, so let me give you the oath, please.

19 ED ABLARD; Having first been duly affirmed,
20 Testified as follows:

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
22 proceed, sir.

23 THE WITNESS: My name is Ed Ablard. I live at
24 1802 Grace Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28405.

1 STATEMENT BY MR. ABLARD:

2 I've lived here since 2018, and before that I
3 lived across the street since 2012. And I moved from the
4 Washington, DC area in 2012, whereupon I started to learn
5 about the North Carolina way of doing things.

6 I'm by trade a lawyer practicing in DC and also
7 in North Carolina. I wrote a letter and put it in the
8 file tonight about some work I've been doing since
9 October with using a resource which is too voluminous to
10 attach to my testimony. It's a magazine called The
11 Drawdown Review, subtitled "Climate Solutions for a New
12 Decade." It's about a hundred pages long. It's easily
13 downloaded from the drawdown.org website.

14 But I found that it was necessary in my use of
15 this document to actually have the printed document in
16 hand before I could comprehend its scope, and it's --
17 really, it's a genius document which I commend to all of
18 the Commissioners as a desk book. And the reason I say
19 that is because this is a document that contains 76
20 solutions to achieve the drawdown of CO2 needed to
21 prevent further temperature rise in -- in the world,
22 really. The solutions are in worldwide numbers.

23 And the amount of CO2 that they say needs to be
24 draw down -- drawn down is 1,576 and a half gigatons of

1 CO2 by 2050. Each one of these 76 solutions are ranked
2 one to 76. Number one is offshore wind turbines, number
3 two utility-scale photovoltaics, and it goes on from
4 there. There are circle graphs to explain how the
5 utility industry is divided up, and I would take it that
6 this Utility Commission would be most interested in that.

7 But I have read the -- and skimmed the IRP
8 that's in controversy tonight, and I find that the
9 Company does not do a good job of recognizing the need
10 for carbon dioxide reduction in the number of 1,576 and a
11 half gigatons, and so I think that in sending this back
12 to the Utility, this IRP back to the Utility, it would be
13 good to have them start from a position of what amount of
14 CO2 they're contributing to the atmosphere and what
15 amount that is in relation to the amount that is going
16 into the atmosphere every year and the amount that they
17 proceed -- they will proceed over the life of the IRP to
18 reduce the CO2 going into the atmosphere.

19 I have some experience with planning. We just
20 finished in Wilmington a clean energy plan filed with the
21 city council January 16, and five different items from
22 that plan were adopted. They're going to be setting up a
23 clean energy task force. All of that has come on since
24 the Order of March 26, so I think that's new matter which

1 might be well looked into by the Commission.

2 Several of my -- several of my coparticipants
3 in that clean energy task force have testified, one of
4 them tonight, Beth Hansen. I do think it would be good
5 to change the way the Utility Commission looks at long-
6 term planning and -- and I thank you for your time.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Ablard, thank you
8 for your testimony this evening. Are there questions
9 anyone wishes to ask?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. I don't
12 see any, so, again, Mr. Ablard, thank you for your
13 testimony this evening. We appreciate it.

14 (Witness excused.)

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

16 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Commissioner Clodfelter,
17 while the last person was testifying, we had two
18 additional people scheduled for tonight call in, and --

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

20 MS. EDMONDSON: -- we've been able to identify
21 them. So the next one would be number 34, William
22 McNeil.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right.

24 MR. McNEIL: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. McNeil, can you
2 hear me?

3 MR. McNEIL: Yes, indeed. Thank you for
4 holding this hearing this evening.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let me give
6 you the oath.

7 WILLIAM McNEIL; Having first been duly affirmed,
8 Testified as follows:

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Give us your
10 name, your address, and tell us who provides your
11 electric service, and then you may proceed.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm William McNeil. I'm a
13 resident of Guilford County, living at 1014 Gretchen
14 Lane, Unit D, in the New Garden community near Guilford
15 College. I'm a customer of Duke Energy.

16 STATEMENT BY MR. McNEIL:

17 I have grave concerns for the future climate
18 crisis that's threatening the homes and livelihoods of
19 all of North Carolina's residents and businesses. This
20 is also personal for me, as my wife is experiencing
21 health problems relating from asthma, pulmonary fibrosis.
22 Our daughter and our granddaughters also experience
23 asthma, and we are concerned about the climate impacts
24 that will only make these health concerns worse. And I'm

1 sure we're not alone in this.

2 I thank you for your attention to this IRP that
3 Duke has presented. All decisions have consequences.
4 Decisions that you on the Utilities Commission make this
5 year and those that Duke Energy makes in the time frame
6 of their IRP from 2020 to 2035 will affect all of the
7 levels of greenhouse gases and impacts on climate crisis
8 on us all.

9 I ask you to reject Duke's IRP at this time and
10 to direct Duke to submit a new plan that does, one,
11 retire its coal plants sooner on a more rapid timetable;
12 two, invest in no new gas infrastructure; three, increase
13 significantly the amount of renewable energy and the
14 large-scale energy storage in its portfolio; and then
15 four, to prepare in the near term for the emerging
16 advanced nuclear technologies that are expected to be
17 available beyond the scope of this IRP, but the planning
18 must begin now and not later.

19 I note that Duke proposed its IRP in 2020 under
20 the former federal administration, and as we all know, I
21 think so much has changed with the new Biden
22 administration and its policies recommitting to the Paris
23 Climate Accord, for reducing carbonization of
24 transportation, and the energy production arena. This

1 all warrants a new analysis on Duke Energy's part. I
2 think that they were basing a lot of their regulatory
3 assumptions on deregulation, and they failed to account
4 for new regulations and a new approach to reducing carbon
5 that will be at least underway in the current
6 administration.

7 I note that the schedule for retiring older
8 power plants is way too slow. The cost projections seem
9 to ignore the environmental and health risks associated
10 with running these aged plants. These are risks that are
11 going to be borne by the neighbors of its plants and
12 people downwind from those plants, and I'm particularly
13 downwind from the Belews Creek plants.

14 In my view, Duke should give more serious
15 consideration to replacing coal with nuclear options that
16 will emerge, preparing for small modular reactors and
17 other technologies as they become feasible.

18 Duke seems to rely so extensively on fracked
19 natural gas, and the models fail to account for the
20 environmental cost of methane that have been documented
21 of having a great impact on greenhouse gases.

22 The Biden administration, most recently to
23 regulate methane leaks more rigorously, need to be taken
24 into account and to find the cost of social -- the social

1 cost of greenhouse gases and their cost calculations. In
2 my view, I recommend that you call for Duke to update its
3 analysis to retract these external costs.

4 With that, I thank you for your attention to my
5 concerns and the concerns of many others who care deeply
6 about our community, our state, and the planet that we
7 inhabit. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
9 McNeil. Are there questions from Commissioners or from
10 the parties?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any. Mr.
13 McNeil, thank you for your patience and waiting with us
14 tonight and presenting your testimony.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

18 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. The next witness is
19 number 36, Mark Thelkeld (sic).

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
21 Thelkeld, can you hear me?

22 MR. THRELKELD: Yes, I can.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We've got you
24 fine, so let me give you the oath, please.

1 MR. THRELKELD: Okay.

2 MARK THRELKELD; Having first been duly affirmed,
3 Testified as follows:

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
5 continue.

6 THE WITNESS: Well, first of all, my last name
7 is Threlkeld, Mark Threlkeld. I live in Swannanoa, North
8 Carolina, Buncombe County.

9 STATEMENT BY MR. THRELKELD:

10 And, you know, the testimony has all been very
11 good, some of it very detailed. I'd like you to fly back
12 up to 30,000 feet for just a minute and think about this
13 as not just here tonight, but really all over the world
14 conversations like this are taking place. A Dutch court
15 ruled just today that Royal Dutch Shell, one of the
16 largest energy companies in the world, must reduce
17 greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by 2030. That's
18 nine years from now. That's outstanding. And,
19 obviously, it would be remarkable and probably will be
20 contested, but nonetheless, conversations like the one
21 we're having are taking place all over.

22 We cannot stand to have a 15-year plan from
23 Duke Energy that will lock us in to greenhouse gas
24 emitting facilities for the next 30 years. The

1 Commission can force Duke on to the clean path. What I
2 would like to see happen, what I would like for you to
3 consider is, number one, make Duke maximize all energy
4 efficient options before building any new generation
5 fossil fuel plants. If their case is so strong, in your
6 opinion, that they have to do that, at least make them
7 maximize what they're doing to increase efficiency.

8 Two, Duke has to accelerate the retirement of
9 the six remaining coal plants. They're inefficient.
10 They're losing money. It makes no sense to have those in
11 operation.

12 And third, and as pretty much what I've said,
13 don't allow them to move forward with an energy plan that
14 will lock us into using fossil fuels for the next 30
15 years. Six coal-fired plants and up to 13 fracked gas
16 plants are simply too many and too much CO2 going into
17 the atmosphere.

18 So I know you've heard a lot of arguments and
19 you've spent a lot of time at this, and I appreciate the
20 time you've spent as a fellow citizen of this state, and
21 I hope that you'll consider not allowing them to move
22 forward with the plan as presented. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, sir. Are
24 there questions from any of the parties or the

1 Commissioners?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any, so
4 thank you, sir. We appreciate your testimony this
5 evening. Thank you.

6 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Ms. Edmondson?

9 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Commissioner Clodfelter,
10 the next two, we have two lines we haven't been able to
11 identify the caller, so let Mr. McCoy unmute them.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Let's
13 just stand down for just a second, then, and we'll let
14 Mr. McCoy see if he can identify the callers and
15 determine whether they're on the list for this evening.

16 Ms. Edmondson, if you'll just give me the
17 signal when Mr. McCoy has been able to determine who the
18 callers are.

19 MR. McCOY: Hello. Caller, are you there?

20 MR. KIPPE: Yes, I am.

21 MR. McCOY: Can you state your name, please?

22 MR. KIPPE: My name is Connor Kippe.

23 MS. EDMONDSON: Okay. This is number 11,
24 Connor Kippe.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
2 Kippe, I have you and I can hear you, so let me give you
3 the oath, please.

4 CONNOR KIPPE; Having first been duly affirmed,
5 Testified as follows:

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Your volume is
7 a little low, so you may need to speak closer to your
8 microphone, but please proceed.

9 THE WITNESS: I am Connor Kippe, a Durham
10 resident, at 1026 Gloria Ave., Durham, North Carolina,
11 27701. And I am Duke Energy Carolinas consumer and also
12 a Climate Action organizer with Climate Action NC, a
13 branch of League of Conservation Voters.

14 STATEMENT BY MR. KIPPE:

15 I speak both as a private citizen and a
16 representative of my organization, along with my other
17 coworker Amelia Covington who spoke earlier tonight. I
18 support her earlier testimony.

19 First of all, I would like to thank you all for
20 your time tonight and for you time during all of the
21 other hearings. I know hearings are drab. It's not the
22 liveliest of affairs.

23 Because I speak as a representative of my
24 organization, I include showcasing my own personal story.

1 I'm lucky enough to live near downtown Durham in a well
2 forested neighborhood. However, just several blocks away
3 from myself in the neighborhood where I have friends and
4 more volunteers of my organization live, there exists
5 little to no tree cover on many of the streets. So in
6 some ways this is separate from climate issues. It
7 exacerbates many of their harmful effects. We know from
8 numerous studies that inequities such as this exacerbate
9 health issues in those that experience them. Though the
10 reforestation project in the city obviously are not the
11 purview of this Commission, the increased prices of these
12 and other residents of many of our cities experience now
13 and into the future are.

14 I use this as just one of many examples of how
15 the different IRPs will negatively affect our residents.
16 Many others have been provided by others throughout the
17 night. As has well been -- as has been well
18 substantiated by many North Carolina climate scientists,
19 the future will bring increasing temperatures to our
20 state and result with higher energy costs of cooling
21 under our current system.

22 The Commission can work now to reduce the
23 future temperature increase and underlying nature of the
24 pricing system. I call on you to reject the currently

1 planned IRPs of Dominion and Duke so as to change a
2 possible future.

3 The plans, as currently outlined, keep fossil
4 fuels in our energy mix too long, undervaluing the
5 societal and future government cost of climate change
6 and, hence, shortchanging both current and future NC
7 residents.

8 To properly evaluate our future energy plans,
9 we must more fully value the cost of continued fossil
10 fuel exploration and dependence. At least 70 percent of
11 clean renewable energy by 2030 and a hundred percent by
12 2050 should be our low-end goals, with forecasts to
13 exceed them, if possible.

14 To reach a sustainable equitable future, we
15 also need to allow communities to develop their own means
16 of energy traction, empowering them through community
17 wind and solar initiatives that will bring long-term
18 lower cost and healthier energy to our communities. This
19 one, mixed with larger-scale clean renewable energies,
20 will provide us a more resilient, efficient, and just
21 energy system.

22 I call on you to require a hearing with expert
23 testimony, as recommended by other speakers, and to
24 require the Utilities to continue to work on these plans.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Kippe.

3 Are there questions anyone wishes to ask?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any, so,

6 again, Mr. Kippe, thank you for testifying this evening.

7 We appreciate it.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

11 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. There is one more witness

12 on the line that Mr. McCoy needs to unmute.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

14 MS. WOLF: Hello.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes. Hello. Who --

16 Yes. I can hear you.

17 MS. WOLF: My name is Patricia Wolf.

18 MS. EDMONDSON: It's number 30 on the list.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Ms. Wolf, I
20 have you and I can hear you, so let me give you the oath.

21 PATRICIA WOLF; Having first been duly affirmed,
22 Testified as follows:

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please

24 continue.

1 THE WITNESS: Well, I'm Patricia Wolf, and I
2 live at 1088 Sardis Cove Drive in Charlotte, and Duke
3 Energy is my provider.

4 STATEMENT BY MS. WOLF:

5 I'd like to say that I certainly hope that you
6 all can do something to make this more than just a
7 formality, whether that's the evidentiary hearing or
8 talking to individual Duke employees to plant a bug in
9 their ear for future. But I'm just very concerned. I
10 know we all love our children and our grandchildren, want
11 to use science, so how they can be so blind as to suggest
12 25, is the number I read, 15 is what I've heard someone
13 else say, gas plants that will still be operating in
14 2050, leaking methane, which is much more harmful than
15 carbon dioxide, and have such puny goals for solar and
16 wind power? It just seems that their profit has blinded
17 them to their survival needs for their family.

18 And I certainly hope that some of the money
19 that energy collects can be used for innovation, because
20 lots of innovation is still needed when it comes to
21 storing like big batteries for electric -- electricity,
22 more electric grid, building insulation, heat pumps,
23 maybe even safer and smaller nuclear, having improved
24 regulations and policies. I know that's not something

1 they're going to impose on themselves, but that's
2 something that needs to be included so we can focus on
3 anything but fossil fuels.

4 So I sure appreciate your time and hope you can
5 do something useful with our time. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms. Wolf,
7 and thank you for your patience and waiting with us this
8 evening to testify. Does anyone have questions for Ms.
9 Wolf?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. I don't
12 see any, so, again, thank you for being with us, Ms.
13 Wolf. We appreciate it.

14 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Edmondson?

16 MS. EDMONDSON: Yes. Commissioner Clodfelter,
17 that was our last witness.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Let me
19 ask the counsel, are there any matters we need to take up
20 in conclusion before we adjourn the public hearing?

21 MR. KAYLOR: None from Duke.

22 MS. EDMONDSON: No.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Not seeing any -- all
24 right. I want to thank everyone for participating and

1 being with us tonight. Let me remind folks again who are
2 following us if there are things that you think of
3 afterwards that you wish you'd said, but didn't get to
4 say, again, remember you can file written statements with
5 the Clerk. They do become part of the record of the
6 proceedings. So thank you all for your patience and for
7 participating in this remote hearing tonight, and with
8 that, we are adjourned. Thank you all.

9 (The hearing was adjourned.)

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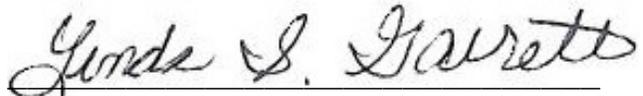
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Linda S. Garrett, Notary Public/Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing hearing before the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Docket No. E-100, Sub 165 was taken and transcribed under my supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of said Hearing.

I do further certify that I am not of counsel for, or in the employment of either of the parties to this action, nor am I interested in the results of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 9th day of June, 2021.



Linda S. Garrett, CCR
Notary Public No. 19971700150