

1 PLACE: Via Videoconference
2 DATE: Monday, May 17, 2021
3 DOCKET NO.: E-100, Sub 165
4 TIME: 6:01 P.M. TO 7:50 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.
12
13

14 IN THE MATTER OF:
15 Generic Electric - 2020 Biennial
16 Integrated Resource Plan Reports and
17 Related 2020 REPS Compliance Plans
18

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20 Volume 5
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Madam Court Reporter,
3 please open the record, and everyone will please be in
4 order.

5 I am Commissioner Dan Clodfelter, and I will be
6 presiding at this public hearing tonight. Joining me
7 tonight are Commission Chair Charlotte Mitchell,
8 Commissioners ToNola Brown-Bland, Lyons Gray, Kim
9 Duffley, Jeff Hughes, and Floyd McKissick, Jr.

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

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

23 (No response.)

24 Madam Court Reporter, let the record reflect

1 that no such conflicts have been identified by any
2 Commissioner.

3 North Carolina General Statute, Section 62-
4 110.1(c), requires the Commission to develop, publicize,
5 and keep current an analysis of the long-range needs for
6 electricity in North Carolina. In order to meet this
7 requirement, the Commission conducts an annual
8 investigation into the Integrated Resource Plans prepared
9 by each of the three principal electric utilities under
10 the Commission's jurisdiction.

11 And in addition to that review, Commission Rule
12 R8-67(b) requires electric public utilities to file a
13 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Plan, sometimes we
14 call it the REPS Compliance Plan, as part of their
15 biennial IRP reports. Integrated Resource Planning, or
16 sometimes referred to for shorthand as IRP, is intended
17 to identify the electric resource options that can be
18 obtained at the lowest cost to ratepayers, consistent
19 with safe, adequate, and reliable electric service.

20 The Utilities' Integrated Resource Plans must
21 consider conservation, efficiency, load management, as
22 well as supply-side alternatives in the selection of
23 resource options.

24 In North Carolina, the Commission does not

1 approve or disapprove the Utilities' Integrated Resource
2 Plans. Instead, the Commission takes them into
3 consideration in its own long-range planning for
4 electricity service in North Carolina and also in its
5 determination of applications for Certificates of Public
6 Convenience and Necessity to construct new electric
7 generating facilities and in other proceedings where
8 approval of utility programs or investments is required
9 by the statutes.

10 On May the 1st of last year, Virginia Electric
11 Power Company, doing business as Dominion Energy, filed
12 its 2020 IRP and its 2020 REPS Compliance Plan.

13 On September 1st, 2020, Duke Energy Progress
14 and Duke Energy Carolinas filed their 2020 IRPs and their
15 2020 REPS Compliance Plans.

16 The Public Staff's participation in this
17 proceeding as a party is recognized pursuant to the
18 General Statutes, and in addition, the participation of
19 the North Carolina Attorney General is recognized
20 pursuant to his Notice of Intervention filed pursuant to
21 General Statute 62-20.

22 The following parties have petitioned to
23 intervene and have been granted status as parties to the
24 action by Commission Order. They are the North Carolina

1 Sustainable Energy Association, Volt Solar, the Carolinas
2 Clean Energy Business Alliance, NC WARN, The Center for
3 Biological Diversity, Carolina Industrial Group For Fair
4 Utility Rates, the Carolina Utility Customers
5 Association, the Tech Customers, Broad River Energy, LLC,
6 the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, the City of
7 Charlotte, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense
8 Council, Electricities of North Carolina, Inc., the North
9 Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency, and the North
10 Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1.

11 On February 2nd, 2021, the Commission issued an
12 Order scheduling a public hearing to be conducted by
13 Webex on March 16th, 2021, for the purpose of taking non-
14 expert public witness testimony with respect to the IRPs
15 and the REPS Compliance Plans. The Order stated that
16 members of the public desiring to testify must register
17 in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on
18 Thursday, March 11th, 2021, by contacting the Public
19 Staff. The Commission's Order also required the three
20 Utilities to publish notice of the public hearing in
21 newspapers having general coverage in their respective
22 North Carolina service areas.

23 The Public Staff received more than 200
24 requests to testify at the original hearing date. The

1 Commission was pleased to have that level of interest
2 from the public, but determined that accommodating such a
3 large number of witnesses via remote technology on a
4 single night presented logistical and technical
5 challenges that could not be overcome, and therefore the
6 Commission issued an Order on March 12, 2021, stating in
7 part that persons registering to testify at the March 16
8 hearing date would instead be heard on a series of
9 sessions spanning several dates.

10 On March 26 of this year, the Commission issued
11 an Order establishing six dates in April and May for the
12 purpose of the public hearings. The Commission directed
13 Public Staff to evenly schedule the witnesses across the
14 six evenings and to notify each person the date he or she
15 was to testify. And that brings us to tonight, which is
16 the fifth such hearing, and to the process we will follow
17 this evening to receive public testimony.

18 Over the past year the Commission has conducted
19 several public hearings using the remote technology, and
20 we have learned that such hearings can potentially take
21 longer and sometimes be more complicated than hearings
22 conducted in person in Raleigh. So in the interest of
23 being able to hear from everyone who is scheduled to
24 testify this evening, I ask that you respect and abide by

1 the following procedures.

2 The Public Staff has grouped the witnesses and
3 scheduled each group of witnesses for a specific date.
4 The group scheduled for this date tonight are the only
5 witnesses the Commission will receive testimony from this
6 evening. Once all the registered witnesses have
7 testified, the hearing will recess for this evening, and
8 we will then move to the next session at a later date.

9 Public witnesses, as they call in, will be on
10 the telephone line, but will not be shown on the video
11 screen which is available to those who are following us
12 on YouTube. Anyone participating in or observing
13 tonight's hearing can watch the Commission and the
14 representatives of the Companies and other parties via
15 the YouTube link. The link to the YouTube video is
16 available on the Commission's webpage, home page, which
17 is www.ncuc.net.

18 The Public Staff will call this evening's
19 witnesses in the order in which they registered to speak.
20 When your name is called, at that point the meeting
21 technician will unmute your telephone line. When you
22 hear two beeps on your phone line, that means your line
23 has been unmuted, and that we can hear you, and you are
24 ready to speak. At that point I will then ask you to

1 take an oath of affirmation.

2 After you take the oath of affirmation, then we
3 have three introductory questions, and if you'll go ahead
4 and answer those, it will save some time. We want you to
5 state your name, and if there are any difficulties with
6 spelling, if you think there might be difficulties with
7 spelling, please spell for the court reporter's benefit,
8 give us your address, and then tell us what company
9 provides electricity service to you. After you've done
10 that, after you've taken the oath and told us those three
11 things, then you are free to proceed with your comments.

12 You will have five minutes to present your
13 statement. Due to the number of witnesses we have and
14 the requirements of the technology, I do not have
15 latitude to allow you to go beyond your allocated time.
16 We don't know how many people are going to actually
17 appear to speak this evening, so be respectful of the
18 time limit because there will be others waiting behind
19 you, waiting their turn to speak. Commissioner Brown-
20 Bland, whom you can see there that has the green
21 background, she will be our timekeeper, and she has a --
22 she has an excellent alarm on her phone that we've found
23 works very well. When you hear that ringing sound from
24 Commissioner Brown-Bland's phone, that means your time

1 has expired.

2 If you have something to say that you believe
3 has already been said by an earlier speaker, you may
4 simply refer to that testimony and say that you support
5 what the earlier speaker said. Doing that allows you to
6 use your time to make different points or new points that
7 haven't yet been brought up. If you have more
8 information that you wish the Commission to consider than
9 you can provide in the allotted time, please remember
10 that you can file a supplemental written statement with
11 the Commission's clerk, and that statement will also
12 become part of the record in this proceeding.

13 You will be speaking to the Commissioners whom
14 you'll be able to see on the YouTube link. After your
15 statement is done, the Commissioners and the attorneys
16 for the parties will have an opportunity to ask you any
17 questions they may want to pose to you, so don't hang up
18 your line when you're done speaking until I have let you
19 know whether or not any Commissioner or party has a
20 question they want to ask you.

21 When you have completed your statement and
22 you've responded to any questions, your phone line will
23 be muted again. You are free to disconnect at that
24 point. If you wish to continue to listen in on the phone

1 line, you are also free to do that. When you hear a
2 single beep on your line, that means you have been placed
3 back on mute.

4 Finally, let me touch on a couple points that
5 will help us avoid problems with the technology this
6 evening. If you are calling in using a cell phone, a
7 portable phone, or a smart phone as your telephone link,
8 please be sure your device is fully charged or that you
9 can keep it charged during the course of the evening. If
10 the hearing goes long into the evening and you don't have
11 your battery charged, we may lose you, and we don't want
12 that to happen.

13 If you are watching the hearing on YouTube and
14 you're also connected to us by the telephone link, please
15 remember to keep your computer audio on mute in order to
16 avoid feedback on the telephone line. If you're using
17 your computer to dial in and speak to us for the hearing,
18 please keep your computer audio on mute, except when you
19 have been called on and are actually speaking.

20 And last of all, please be sure the volume
21 level on the device you are using is set high enough so
22 that you can be heard.

23 With those preliminaries, I will call upon the
24 counsel for the parties to announce their appearances for

1 the record, beginning with the Utility companies.

2 MR. KAYLOR: Good evening, members of the
3 Commission. Robert Kaylor appearing on behalf of Duke
4 Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress.

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good evening, Mr.
6 Kaylor.

7 MR. DANTONIO: Good evening, Commissioners.
8 Nick Dantonio with McGuireWoods here on behalf of
9 Dominion Energy.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good to have you with
11 us this evening. Appearing for the Attorney General?

12 MS. TOWNSEND: Good evening. I'm Teresa
13 Townsend with the Attorney General, representing the
14 Using and Consuming Public and also the State and Its
15 Citizens in this matter of public interest. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Before I
17 call for appearances from the Public Staff, let me ask,
18 are there any Intervenor parties who are making an
19 appearance this evening?

20 (No response.)

21 I don't see anyone on my screen, but if there
22 is anyone out there, please speak up.

23 (No response.)

24 Hearing no one, Ms. Cummings, I understand

1 you're leading tonight for the Public Staff, so I'll let
2 you make the appearances.

3 MS. CUMMINGS: Thank you, Commissioner
4 Clodfelter. Layla Cummings on behalf of the Public Staff
5 on behalf of the Using and Consuming Public. Tonight
6 appearing with me also are Lucy Edmondson and Robert
7 Josey.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Good to have
9 you with us this evening. Let me ask counsel, are there
10 any matters that we need to discuss or take up,
11 procedural matters, before we call the first witness?

12 MR. KAYLOR: None from Duke Energy.

13 MR. DANTONIO: No.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I'm not hearing
15 anyone jump in, so I'm going to assume there's nothing.
16 And with that, Ms. Cummings, then we are ready to call
17 your first witness, please.

18 MS. CUMMINGS: Our first witness is Steven
19 Norris.

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

22 MR. NORRIS: Yeah. Can you hear me?

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you just
24 fine. Let me give you the oath.

1 STEVEN NORRIS; Having first been duly affirmed,
2 Testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
4 proceed, sir.

5 THE WITNESS: My name is Dr. Steven Norris. My
6 address is 372 Sharon Road, Fairview, North Carolina, and
7 my utility is Duke Progress.

8 STATEMENT BY MR. NORRIS:

9 I am a retired professor, I am 78 years old,
10 and I'm President of the Alliance to Protect the People
11 and the Places We Live. Thank you, Commissioners, for
12 this opportunity to testify about Duke's most recent IRP,
13 which is not really an IRP at all and may not qualify as
14 one legally, but, rather, a set of six possible options.
15 More on that later.

16 I'm a climate and environmental justice
17 activist and have been arrested many times in my attempts
18 to save the earth and my great-grandchildren from
19 catastrophic climate change. Most recently, I was
20 arrested in the driveway of Duke's CEO Lynn Good, sitting
21 in a 20-foot bamboo fracking tower, protesting Duke's
22 construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

23 I want to start my testimony by quoting a
24 famous American patriot who you all know. "These are the

1 times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the
2 sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the
3 service of his country. He that stands by it now
4 deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." You
5 Commissioners all know that our times now are times that
6 try our souls, and we the people and you the
7 Commissioners must choose whether you be a summer soldier
8 who shrinks from service to our country and to future
9 generations or whether we will stand up for what must be
10 done and tell Duke that they must go back to the drawing
11 board.

12 In the previous public testimony before the
13 Commission over the last month, many people, in fact,
14 close to a hundred people, have testified and laid out in
15 great detail the many compelling flaws and why the
16 Commission must reject this IRP. These people include
17 faith leaders, professors with Ph.D.'s, attorneys, heads
18 of environmental organizations, as well as residents and
19 activists of frontline communities who have suffered
20 mightily from climate change and various environmental
21 assaults, some of which have been caused by Duke. And
22 there are so many objections to this IRP that you may
23 very well feel overwhelmed. And, of course, there is no
24 need for me, in my testimony, to repeat the detailed

1 analysis of others. Interestingly, too, no one, not one
2 person of a hundred who have testified, not one of the
3 hundred has supported Duke's proposal.

4 In the last month before this Commission, the
5 people of North Carolina have spoken clearly,
6 unequivocally, and unanimously that Duke's IRP must be
7 rejected. So now you, the Commissioners, have a choice
8 to make. Do you stand with the democratic will of the
9 people of North Carolina and reject Duke's IRP, or do you
10 ingloriously cave in to the enormous political and
11 bureaucratic pressures which bear on you and accept
12 Duke's unwillingness to deal with the major crises of our
13 times? This is, admittedly, a hard and dangerous choice
14 which Paine recognized, Tyranny, the hell -- "Tyranny,
15 like hell, is not easily conquered, yet we have
16 consolation with us that the heart of the conflict, the
17 more glorious the triumph."

18 So the question before you now is where will
19 you stand in the journey our country is on to protect
20 democracy and foster environmental justice? The good
21 news for you is like -- unlike Tom Paine and Thomas
22 Jefferson and George Washington, you will not have to
23 risk your freedom and your wealth to stand up to Duke's
24 greed and closedmindedness. And unlike Frederick

1 Douglass and Harriet Tubman and Dr. King, you will not
2 have to risk your lives. You simply must tell Duke to go
3 back to the drawing board and submit a new IRP which
4 matches the challenge -- challenges of the 2020s, when
5 climate change and environmental degradation, clearly
6 massive, full speed railroad trains coming straight down
7 the tracks toward our economy, our civilization, and our
8 children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

9 I mentioned at the beginning of my testimony
10 that Duke's IRP may not qualify as an IRP at all. This
11 is not even a plan. It is, instead, a list of six
12 possible options about which Duke apparently doesn't want
13 to make a choice. So it seems that Duke simply punted
14 and pouted and gave this -- and gave the NCUC what is
15 basically garbage. If the Commission is looking for a
16 rationale to reject this IRP, it could simply say that
17 Duke has claimed -- that what Duke has claimed as an IRP
18 is not an IRP at all and, therefore, must be submitted.

19 I applaud you, the Commissioners, for choosing
20 courage and integrity, and to stand for the people of
21 North Carolina and reject Duke's outrageous parts of its
22 legal, ethical, and environmental responsibility. Thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER GRAY: Commissioner, you're muted.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yeah. The spacebar
2 was not working there. Let's see. Does anyone have any
3 questions they want to ask of Mr. Norris?

4 (No response.)

5 I don't see any, so Mr. Norris, thank you very
6 much for appearing this evening and sharing your thoughts
7 with us. We appreciate it.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

11 MS. CUMMINGS: The next witness is Sean Lewis.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I'm sorry. I didn't
13 catch the last name.

14 MS. CUMMINGS: Sean Lewis.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
16 Lewis, are you there?

17 MR. LEWIS: I am. Can you hear me?

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good. We can hear
19 you fine, so let's get you sworn in.

20 SEAN LEWIS; Having first been duly affirmed,

21 Testified as follows:

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Continue.

23 THE WITNESS: My name is Sean Lewis. My
24 address is 514 Excalibur Drive, Morrisville, North

1 Carolina, and my utility provider is Duke Energy
2 Carolinas.

3 STATEMENT BY MR. LEWIS:

4 I'm a nine-year resident of North Carolina and
5 a chemical engineer by training. First off, thank you,
6 Commissioners and Staff. I know that facilitating and
7 attending all of these hearings has been a lot of time
8 and effort, and I'm sure there's a part of you that
9 wishes there weren't so many of us so passionate about
10 this issue. Thank you for your commitment to listen to
11 every one of us.

12 And to the representatives of Duke and
13 Dominion, thank you for your commitment, too. I hope
14 that you'll convey to the boardrooms the conviction
15 you've seen in these hearings. Now, I understand you get
16 paid to think in terms of what will benefit Duke
17 financially. I only ask you to consider looking at
18 Duke's interests more broadly and from a longer-term
19 perspective. In the end, investments made in renewables
20 today will pay off immensely for Duke and for all of us,
21 not only here in North Carolina, but globally.

22 I'm here tonight because the stakes could not
23 be higher. The climate crisis is here. And while it's
24 still debated in the world of politics and the world of

1 science, there is no debating the devastating havoc it
2 will increasingly wreak on human civilization and on all
3 other living things we share this planet with.

4 Now, I'm going to choose to believe that most
5 of us here tonight agree that climate change is happening
6 and that it's bad for all of us. Next, we'd have to
7 agree on what's causing it. And unless you're in the
8 facts-denying, ever-shrinking fringe, the answer is
9 greenhouse gas is produced by human activity, primarily
10 CO2 and the much more potent, but less talked about,
11 methane.

12 Now, we are pumping 160 plus million tons of
13 these greenhouse gases into our same atmosphere every
14 day, so what does Duke have to do with that? Well, it
15 turns out Duke is one of the worst greenhouse gas
16 polluters in the United States. Depending on the year in
17 question, they are, in fact, the number one or number two
18 net producer in the entire country, and that is amazingly
19 in spite of a large nuclear presence.

20 So when it comes to these IRPs, yes, there's a
21 lot at stake, and we each have a moral responsibility to
22 do everything we can to ensure that Duke, as well as
23 Dominion, comes up with better plans for all of us.

24 And now with my individual voice, I'd like to

1 request the following of our utility companies. One,
2 please retire all your coal plants as soon as possible
3 and replace the energy production with renewables.
4 Simply put, converting into fossil gas is going
5 backwards. Two, please do not build any new gas plants.
6 We need all new capacity to come from renewables and
7 renewables alone. Three, please create a marginal
8 electric rate system that puts a greater burden on bigger
9 consumers, generally the wealthy. This will incentivize
10 conservation, while also giving some financial relief to
11 low-income customers. And four, please take all the
12 money being spent on advertising to the public how much
13 you're investing in green energy, as well as lobbying, so
14 you won't have to, and just invest it in green energy.
15 It will have a much bigger payoff in 10 or 20 years.

16 Now, in conclusion, we need our Utility
17 companies to go back to the drawing board and come up
18 with new IRPs, IRPs that will put North Carolina on the
19 path to being part of the climate solution, not the
20 climate problem, the moral path. Thank you to the
21 Commissioners, the Attorney General's Office, and the
22 representatives of Duke and Dominion for your time and
23 your conscious consideration of this very grave issue.
24 You have a lot of power, and with it great

1 responsibility. Please allow evidentiary hearings, as
2 requested by Intervenors. Please do not make your
3 decisions without ensuring that we get real answers on
4 the record from Duke Energy. And, please, make decisions
5 that in 2030 you will look back at with pride, not
6 regret. I trust you will do what's right for all of us,
7 and God willing, I trust Duke will, too, hopefully before
8 it's too late. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis.
10 Do any Commissioners or representative parties have
11 questions for Mr. Lewis?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Lewis, I don't
14 see anyone with a question, so we'll excuse you for the
15 evening, or if you want to stay and follow the rest of
16 the proceedings, we'd love to have you do that, too.
17 Thank you.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

21 MS. CUMMINGS: Our next witness is Tina
22 Katsanos.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Katsanos, are you
24 there?

1 MS. KATSANOS: I'm here.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We can hear
3 you fine, so let me administer the oath.

4 TINA KATSANOS; Having first been duly affirmed,
5 Testified as follows:

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
7 proceed.

8 THE WITNESS: My name is Tina Katsanos. I
9 reside at 6620 Cashion Road, Huntersville, and I have
10 another residence at 10010 Reniston Drive, Charlotte,
11 North Carolina. My energy providers are Duke Energy,
12 Piedmont Natural Gas, which is Duke Energy, and
13 EnergyUnited.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You can continue with
15 your statement.

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. First of all, I want
17 to say something. I did not get an email for this
18 meeting. I checked all of my inboxes. There was nothing
19 there. I also registered my son to speak after me, after
20 I registered myself, and he was grouped in Session 3,
21 which is strange because Commissioner Clodfelter said
22 that we were scheduled in order of our registration, so
23 he missed his opportunity to speak. So I'm not quite
24 sure why I didn't get the email. He did get his email,

1 but I didn't ask him to check because I just assumed he
2 would speak after me. Just want to get that out of the
3 way.

4 STATEMENT BY MS. KATSANOS:

5 So here's my testimony. And maybe some of you
6 have heard this before because I presented it at a press
7 conference in front of Duke Energy's headquarters, where
8 we were met with Duke Energy representatives filming us,
9 so maybe they shared some of that -- maybe not with the
10 North Carolina Utilities Commission -- maybe they shared
11 it with the Duke Energy representatives here, so this
12 might be a repeat. Secondly, we were also met with seven
13 police officers for that press hearing. There was, I
14 think, 13, 14 of us there. So that was pretty strange.
15 Just want to get that out of the way.

16 But, again, here's my testimony. Duke Energy's
17 IRP is a continuation of historical failures on the part
18 of an energy monopoly obsessed with profits over the
19 welfare of peoples. The fossil fuel industry is
20 antiquated, but more importantly, has put the entire
21 planet in peril, as the climate crisis continues to
22 threaten the health, welfare, and safety of communities,
23 especially those that have historically been oppressed
24 and marginalized. Climate change is a threat multiplier,

1 and black, indigenous, and people of color that have
2 contributed the least will continue to shoulder the
3 largest burdens.

4 At the same time, it is impacting all of us.
5 How many of you have been choking on the pollen counts,
6 not just this year, but the past years? Do you know what
7 it's like as a mother to sleep in your son's bed so that
8 you can be sure to wake up every three to four hours to
9 give him Albuterol treatments through a nebulizer?
10 Increased CO2, caused by the extraction and burning of
11 fossil fuels, increases pollen counts.

12 At this point, given the wealth of scientific
13 evidence surrounding climate change and the affordable
14 renewable energy currently available, Duke Energy's
15 refusal to truly transition to renewables is criminal.
16 The North Carolina Utilities Commission must hold them
17 accountable because they are supposed to serve us. Yes,
18 that's us, the citizens of North Carolina.

19 I heard at the beginning talk from Clodfelter
20 that -- or asking people about -- or someone asking
21 about do you have any personal interest. I want to
22 believe that you don't have personal interest at the
23 North Carolina Utilities Commission, but the fact that
24 you have not held Duke Energy accountable for so many

1 years says something different to me.

2 The North Carolina Utilities Commission needs
3 to hold Duke Energy accountable also for the greenwashing
4 of their renewable efforts which has deceived the public
5 and our elected officials. For instance, in 2019 they
6 were running ads boasting about doubling their
7 renewables. I read their Annual Report and found out
8 what that really meant. What that meant is that they
9 increased renewables from two percent in 2005 to four
10 percent in 2018. That's a nasty spin right there.

11 And I will leave you with these thoughts on
12 what a utility is. It is a necessity, right, like water.
13 Do you think anyone that serves the City of Charlotte's
14 water, do you think they make millions in bonuses,
15 salary, and compensation like Lynn Good? Energy is not a
16 commodity that should be sold for profit, but that is
17 what Duke Energy does, and it does it at the risk of all
18 of our futures.

19 And I want to like also say this, what I've
20 said about Duke Energy, Duke Energy is doing what Duke
21 Energy does. It's a corporation. So the fact that I
22 spent so much time coming down on them is almost like a
23 waste of time because they're doing exactly what
24 corporations do. Who I need to be coming down on is you

1 guys, because you guys make me sad. I listened to Beth
2 Henry at the first public hearing that you guys held, and
3 you guys know her, right? She's been coming and
4 testifying for 15 years. That makes me sad. I don't
5 have 15 years, and my son does not have 15 years. Thank
6 you.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
8 Katsanos. I'm not sure about the mix-up in the
9 scheduling. Perhaps Public Staff can communicate with
10 you about that later. Please be sure your son knows, as
11 just a reminder, that he can file a written statement
12 with the Clerk, and those do go into the record as part
13 of the case as well. Now, let's see if anyone has --

14 THE WITNESS: I appreciate that, but --

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- questions.

16 THE WITNESS: You know what, I appreciate that,
17 but he's 10 years old, so if you think he's going to
18 write anything right after school is over, I doubt it,
19 but maybe I'll capture his words and send them to you,
20 but I appreciate it.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Well, we thank you so
22 much for that. Let's see. Does anyone want to ask any
23 questions?

24 (No response.)

1 I'm not seeing anyone step up, so Ms. Katsanos,
2 thank you for being with us this evening. And, again,
3 you're welcome to stay connected or watch on YouTube, or
4 if you've got other things to do, we understand that as
5 well. Thank you.

6 THE WITNESS: No. I'll watch. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

10 MS. CUMMINGS: Our next witness is Sherry
11 Emanuel.

12 MS. EMANUEL: I'm here. Can you hear me?

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I can hear you fine.
14 I'm having trouble, though, with my mute button tonight.
15 I can hear you just fine, so let's get you sworn in.

16 SHERRY EMANUEL; Having first been duly affirmed,
17 Testified as follows:

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
19 proceed.

20 THE WITNESS: Okay. I am Sherry Emanuel. I
21 live at 10322 Dapping Drive in Raleigh.

22 STATEMENT BY MS. EMANUEL:

23 And I am a Board member of the Climate Reality
24 Project's Raleigh Chapter, and I thank you,

1 Commissioners, for this opportunity to speak with you.

2 Here is our Chapter's statement on the North
3 Carolina IRPS. Please send all three IRPs back to the
4 drawing board. The critical time to reduce atmospheric
5 greenhouse gases is now through the coming decade. Our
6 utilities must meet or exceed the 70 percent reduction in
7 climate pollution by 2030, as called for in North
8 Carolina's Clean Energy Plan. The longer we wait, the
9 more damage will be done and the more we will need to
10 spend, and there are no guarantees we can make up for the
11 continued lost time, for we are dealing with Mother
12 Nature and she makes the rules. By continuing to
13 pollute, our utilities are transferring their cost of
14 business to taxpayers, including health impacts, lost
15 wages, storm damages, and tragically, loss of life.

16 Of Duke Energy's 54 million MWh of coal
17 generation in 2019, only 11 percent is firmly committed
18 to retire by the end of 2030. Please require all coal
19 plants close as soon as feasible, no later than 2030.
20 Please bar any new fossil gas infrastructure or
21 conversion of coal plants to fossil gas. Methane
22 leakage, in and of itself, makes fossil gas a step
23 backwards from coal in terms of greenhouse gas impacts.
24 Duke's plans are completely incompatible with limiting

1 warming to 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

2 We have the potential for much more solar in
3 North Carolina. Eliminate the barriers to rooftop solar.
4 Batteries are even now sufficiently advanced for rooftop
5 panels plus storage to help diminish peaking demand. And
6 please encourage community solar, which will allow folks
7 that cannot afford panels or who do not own their own
8 roofs to save on their bills and help North Carolina
9 reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Instead of
10 subsidizing our utilities to build gas plants, let's
11 transfer that to low- and moderate-income residents so
12 they can utilize solar with battery systems.

13 A national study out of Stanford University
14 determined how each could achieve 100 percent clean
15 energy by 2050. Half of North Carolina's portfolio was
16 forecast to be offshore wind. We are very fortunate to
17 have an incredible source on our coast. Investments
18 today will serve us safely for decades. Costs continue
19 to fall for both offshore and onshore wind. The lowest
20 cost energy is what is not used. We can do so much more
21 through efficiency and conservation, and these measures
22 will particularly benefit low-income households.
23 Solar, wind, and energy savings programs are not
24 subjected to volatile market price swings. They do not

1 explode or foul the air. They do not require us to
2 employ dirty fuels. All of the money we spend on coal
3 and fossil gas leaves the state.

4 And, please, permit evidentiary hearings so
5 that you, your Staff, and expert Intervenors can ask our
6 Utilities on the record to explain their assumptions.
7 This moment is historic. If we do not move fast enough,
8 there is no telling what options we might still have in
9 2030. Please acknowledge the climate and health
10 emergencies and say no to subjecting our future to a roll
11 of the loaded dice. North Carolina is at the center of
12 the climate crisis bulls-eye. We are, and increasingly
13 will continue to be, subject to hurricanes, heat waves,
14 flooding, and sea level rise. Please help us prepare a
15 climate resilient state, using free fuel from the sun and
16 the wind, and creating thousands of well-paying clean
17 energy jobs. Let's create a serious pathway to a smart
18 future. Thank you for your attention and your
19 consideration.

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

23 (No response.)

24 I don't see any, so, again, Ms. Emanuel, thank

1 you for participating in the hearing this evening.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

5 MS. CUMMINGS: The next witness is Sarah
6 Ogletree.

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

9 MS. OGLETREE: I'm here.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We can
11 hear --

12 MS. OGLETREE: I can hear you.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We can hear you fine,
14 so let's swear you in.

15 SARAH OGLETREE; Having first been duly affirmed,
16 Testified as follows:

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
18 proceed.

19 THE WITNESS: Well, good evening. My name is
20 Sarah Ogletree, O-G-L-E-T-R-E-E. My address is 975 Young
21 Cove Road, Bakersville, North Carolina, and I am a Duke
22 Energy Progress customer.

23 STATEMENT BY MS. OGLETREE:

24 Good evening to the Commissioners and all

1 joining us. I am grateful for this chance to add my
2 voice to the chorus of testimony offered tonight and over
3 the past weeks.

4 As I said, my name is Sarah Ogletree. I am a
5 resident of Bakersville, North Carolina, and the Program
6 Coordinator of the faith-based climate justice
7 organization North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light.

8 I am coming to you tonight as a concerned
9 citizen and person of faith because we are living within
10 a crisis, a climate crisis and a crisis of morality. Our
11 coasts are flooding. People are being displaced.
12 Increased unwarranted storms are threatening lives and
13 livelihoods. People are dying, and we know
14 scientifically that more people will die if we do not
15 take this moment seriously and act accordingly.

16 As heat indexes rise, it is the poor and most
17 vulnerable, the elderly, the farmworker, the young family
18 who feel the heat most intensively. The North Carolina
19 Department of Health and Human Services reports that in
20 2019, there were 3,692 emergency department visits for
21 heat-related illnesses in our state. I share this to
22 underscore that the business that you are in has the
23 potential to save lives.

24 By taking the climate emergency seriously, by

1 understanding this moment of our chance to safeguard our
2 communities, by understanding the justice implications of
3 your actions, that it is black, brown, indigenous, and
4 impoverished communities that feel the impacts of
5 environmental injustice first and worst. You have the
6 opportunity to make a substantial difference. Again,
7 your work can be life-saving, but the IRP that has been
8 proposed will not do this life-saving work. It will not
9 do that work of justice that we so desperately need, and
10 that is why I am here tonight.

11 I reject the Dominion and two Duke Energy IRPs
12 because I am called as a Christian to love my neighbor as
13 myself, to ensure the thirsty have clean water to drink,
14 to ensure the stranger displaced by storms has a place to
15 go. I reject this IRP because it does not do the work of
16 love, it does not take the science seriously, and because
17 you can do better. We can do better.

18 I am calling on you to be courageous and step
19 into your role with new purpose. I am calling on you to
20 close coal plants by 2030 at the latest. I am calling on
21 you to commit to no new fossil fuel infrastructure. I am
22 calling on you to reach 70 percent clean energy by 2030,
23 as specified in Governor Cooper's Clean Energy Plan. I
24 am calling on you to allow competitive energy procurement

1 for ratepayers, to allow community solar. I am calling
2 on you to do the right thing, to do what will protect
3 life's beauty, our present, and our future. I am calling
4 on you to act with integrity, and to help us build the
5 compassionate, equitable, sustainable world that we all
6 deserve. We can do this together, but we need you to do
7 your part. Please do your part. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
9 Ogletree. Are there any questions for Ms. Ogletree this
10 evening?

11 (No response.)

12 All right. I don't have any here, so Ms.
13 Ogletree, again, thank you for joining us and
14 participating in the hearing this evening.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

18 MS. CUMMINGS: Our next witness is Victoria
19 Estes.

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

22 MS. ESTES: Yes. Can you hear me?

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes. You're just
24 fine, so --

1 MS. ESTES: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- I will give you
3 the oath.

4 VICTORIA ESTES; Having first been duly affirmed,
5 Testified as follows:

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Please
7 continue.

8 THE WITNESS: My name is Victoria. I am from
9 Arden, North Carolina, and I get my power from Duke
10 Energy Carolinas.

11 STATEMENT BY MS. ESTES:

12 So before I give you what I wrote down, I just
13 want to be real with you guys and have an honest, open,
14 human moment right now. I am 25 years old, and today my
15 entire day was spent crying and screaming and just being
16 with myself as I sit with the grief of all of the
17 atrocities that are going on in this world constantly.
18 My heart is with the people in Palestine. My heart are
19 with the people here in North Carolina. My heart are
20 with my black, brown, and indigenous folks that have been
21 struggling since before -- so long, just so long.

22 And I just want to say, Commissioners, you guys
23 are in a place of power, and I don't -- don't know your
24 stories, don't know your journeys, don't know what got

1 you to where you are today, but if I was in your seat, I
2 would do everything that I could to save this planet from
3 climate change because it is happening. And here, I am
4 not in your seat. I do not have your power. I am in
5 over five organizations, and I am a full-time activist,
6 and I still don't feel like I am doing enough, which is
7 why I'm here today.

8 So with that being said, I'm here today because
9 I demand energy justice. I am tired of being stuck in
10 the stranglehold of the monopoly that is Duke Energy. It
11 has become common practice for Duke to come before the
12 NCUC to ask to raise their rates so that people like me
13 have to foot the bill to clean up their toxic coal ash
14 waste and build new fracked gas pipelines. But no longer
15 will I or my community accept this abuse of our energy
16 systems. North Carolinians have had enough, which is why
17 over 200 of us have signed up to speak at the IRP
18 hearings. And while there is only 200 of us signed up,
19 there are thousands that have -- didn't know, didn't have
20 the ability to be here, or they just -- you know, they're
21 just not here.

22 Duke provided misleading information to the
23 Commission, exaggerating their storage cost, lowballing
24 the cost of new gas plants, and giving the impression

1 that the grid came close to losing power during extreme
2 winter weather events when, in fact, a huge amount of
3 reserve power was available.

4 There are a number of reasons why Duke's
5 current 15-year plan is a disaster. Duke's plan includes
6 a massive expansion of super potent methane gas and a
7 continuous clinging to the coal industry, which means
8 they not only fall short of their own stated climate
9 goals, but also the State's clean energy target and the
10 public's demand for serious climate action. They want to
11 continue wasting billions of our dollars on dirty fossil
12 fuels, despite the fact that they could affordably and
13 reliably replace all of their coal plants with clean
14 energy.

15 Duke's current plan is also horribly
16 inequitable. Black, indigenous, communities of color,
17 and low-income communities always suffer the most from
18 the atrocities committed by our energy providers, as they
19 have less resources to fight things like plants and
20 pipelines, and are then tricked into working for the
21 energy companies because they need a good-paying job.
22 The conditions created from the fossil fuel industry led
23 to community members developing respiratory issues,
24 cancer, and other health issues due to air pollution,

1 chemical exposure, and contaminated drinking water.

2 It is no secret that Duke is the worst and the
3 most inefficient energy provider in the country, causing
4 more pollution than any other provider. Currently, Duke
5 gets only 5 percent of their electricity from renewables,
6 and projects to only be at 14 percent by 2035. In 2019,
7 the national average was 17.6 percent, and yet Duke plans
8 to raise our rates to build 59 more fracked gas power
9 units, even though dozens of existing units sit idle even
10 when power demand is the highest. In fact, Duke had 24
11 gas burning turbines that sat totally idle in 2019, yet
12 Duke claims they need 9,600 MW of new gas. Instead of
13 adding gas, Duke needs to invest in sustainable energy
14 like solar.

15 They need to amend their IRP and, one,
16 eliminate any plans for new gas plants; two, commit to
17 closing half of their existing coal plants by 2025;
18 three, focus on making transition plans for coal plant
19 communities; and four, achieve coal-free energy by 2030.
20 But instead, Duke plans to increase their use of coal in
21 the short term, even though independent research shows
22 that they could close all coal-fired plants by next year
23 and still reliably supply power to the state. North
24 Carolina could begin replacing all coal and gas with

1 solar battery storage located close to where it's used.
2 This would not only be cheaper, but it would create more
3 jobs that are safer, cleaner, and highly sustainable.
4 And our Utilities Commission shouldn't settle for
5 anything less, even if Duke is bribing them with money as
6 they love to do. There are many other utilities -- the
7 ball is in your court, NCUC. The ball is in your court.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You can finish your
9 sentence. That's fine.

10 THE WITNESS: I was just going to say that,
11 yeah, we just -- we need sustainable energy, and I really
12 hope that you all use your -- your status to make sure
13 that that happens. Please reject this IRP. It's
14 garbage. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Does
16 anyone have questions for Ms. Estes?

17 (No response.)

18 All right. I don't see any, so, again, thank
19 you for coming and participating this evening.

20 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Thank you. Have a great
21 night.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You, too.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

1 MS. CUMMINGS: Yes. Our next witness is Samuel
2 Bedinger.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
4 Bedinger, are you there?

5 MR. BEDINGER: Yes, I am.

6 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Good. We can hear
7 you, so let me give you the oath.

8 SAMUEL BEDINGER; Having first been duly affirmed,
9 Testified as follows:

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You may proceed.

11 THE WITNESS: My name is Samuel Bedinger. I
12 live at 117 East College Street in Black Mountain, North
13 Carolina. I'm a renter here, and the energy purchase is
14 in the owner's name, and it is from Duke Energy.

15 STATEMENT BY MR. BEDINGER:

16 I moved to Asheville and to Western North
17 Carolina 10 years ago when I retired from my full-time
18 position as a senior research scientist at the University
19 of Chicago. I tend to look at things in terms of
20 research. And so let me say, first of all, that Duke has
21 to close its coal plants and replace them with cheaper
22 and cleaner energy as soon as possible. It's not
23 something that can be put off. My father is from here,
24 but I grew up in West Virginia, and I know what kind of

1 damage coal, both the mining and the use, can do.

2 I've been looking at two studies. The first is
3 the -- it's called the Global Methane Assessment, put
4 together by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and by
5 the United Nations Environment Program. This report has
6 also been looked at and examined by a Duke University
7 professor. I don't know him. I went to Duke as an
8 undergraduate, but it was a long time ago.

9 The thing is, to keep costs low for ratepayers
10 and avoid unnecessary investments and higher cost of fuel
11 technologies, Duke Power must maximize all energy
12 efficiency options before building new generation fossil
13 fuel plants. Duke does not need to build any new fossil
14 gas plants or infrastructure. Renewable energy and
15 energy efficiency can meet reliability needs more cost
16 effectively, while reducing bills, pollution, and climate
17 impacts.

18 The report is basically a broad report about
19 the use of fracking. And the Duke professor who did a
20 report based on the international report is Drew
21 Shindell. His writing was from an academic journal
22 website called The Conversation. The Global Methane
23 Assessment shows that human-caused methane emissions can
24 be reduced by up to 45 percent this decade. Such

1 reductions would avoid nearly 0.3 degrees Centigrade of
2 global warming by 2045 and would be consistent with
3 keeping the Paris Climate Agreement's goal to limit
4 global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius within our
5 reach. The Assessment, for the first time, integrates
6 the climate and air pollution cost and benefits from
7 methane mitigation. Because methane is a key ingredient
8 in the formulation of ground-level ozone, a powerful
9 climate forcer and dangerous air pollutant, a 25 percent
10 reduction would prevent 260,000 premature deaths, 775,000
11 air worthy hospital visits, 73 billion hours of lost
12 labor from extreme heat, and 25 million tons of crop
13 losses annually. These are broad numbers.

14 The other thing is, fracking and the use of
15 methane is not socially equitable. Others have mentioned
16 this. Black, indigenous, communities of color, and low-
17 income communities are already dealing with climate
18 change, pollution, and high bills. They will be hit
19 hardest if Duke Energy is allowed to lock in decades more
20 of dirty energy.

21 One of the most important lessons from the
22 methane report, the top takeaway is that methane is going
23 up very quickly. It needs to drop by nearly half by 2030
24 to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius if we

1 hope to stay on the lowest cost path. That means we have
2 a rapid U-turn to make. The good news is that we have a
3 lot to gain by cutting these emissions. Methane is a
4 potent greenhouse gas, but it's also a precursor to
5 surface ozone and it actually devolves into CO2. Both
6 are toxic and both are heating elements. Reducing
7 methane improves the quality of the air we breathe at the
8 same time that it reduces climate change, and results are
9 almost immediate.

10 Some studies play to the rise of hydraulic
11 fracturing which expanded gas production, and roughly
12 parallels the recent methane increase. Others say
13 livestock and the increasing global demand for meat
14 played a big role. Some point to natural sources,
15 particularly wetlands and the tropics has spun into
16 climate change. The most likely scenario is that it's a
17 combination of all three. The one we can do the most
18 about is burning fossil fuels.

19 The report shows why having more natural gas is
20 incompatible with keeping warming to less than 1.5
21 degrees Celsius. The bottom line is that the overall
22 methane emissions have to be lowered to slow climate
23 change. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: And, sir, thank you

1 for being with us for the hearing this evening.

2 THE WITNESS: I hope that you guys will do
3 what's right. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: We appreciate your
5 coming. Ms. Cummings?

6 MS. CUMMINGS: Yes. Our next witness is Sally
7 Ekaireb.

8 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I'm sorry. I didn't
9 -- your words are dropping at the end of the sentence, so
10 I didn't get the last name.

11 MS. CUMMINGS: Sally Ekaireb.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Ms. Ekaireb,
13 are you there?

14 MS. EKAIREB: Yes, I am.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great.

16 MS. EKAIREB: And the name is Sally Ekaireb --

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

18 MS. EKAIREB: -- and that is spelled
19 E-K-A-I-R-E-B, as in boy. And I live at 91 Alpine Way,
20 Weaverville, North Carolina, 28787, and Duke Energy
21 Progress is my provider.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
23 Ekaireb, let me give you the oath, and then you can
24 proceed with your statement.

1 SALLY EKAIREB; Having first been duly affirmed,
2 Testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. You may
4 continue.

5 STATEMENT BY MS. EKAIREB:

6 Thank you for allowing me and the other North
7 Carolina residents the opportunity to voice our opinions
8 about Duke's 15-year energy plan, a plan that would lock
9 us into fossil fuels for the next 30 years.

10 My concern and opposition to the plan is based
11 on Duke's proposal to continue burning coal until 2049
12 and to build up to 13 fracked natural gas plants. Out of
13 respect for your time and the realization that I will
14 reiterate what those who have testified before me have
15 already said, I want to be brief.

16 As a resident of Weaverville and a long-time
17 stock owner of Duke Energy, I am opposed to this energy
18 proposal, and I hope you will oppose it as well. I do
19 not support the use of coal production as an energy
20 source, period. I do not support further development of
21 natural gas fracking, though I believe that it has a
22 place in the balance of energy production and
23 distribution. However, the safety standards of this
24 process needs to be at the highest and most rigorous

1 level, so I want to limit their construction and have it
2 overseen as much as possible.

3 More solar energy needs to be employed, for it
4 is not only the cleanest, but also the most cost
5 effective energy supply source. A recent study from
6 Energy Innovation showed that if Southeastern United
7 States utilities companies increased solar and wind
8 production, North Carolina could boost renewable energy
9 to 66 percent by 2035, while decreasing cost to
10 ratepayers.

11 I ask Duke to create a plan that will
12 accelerate retirement of all coal plants, close half of
13 its coal fleet by 2025, achieve a coal-free energy by
14 2030, and support transition plans for coal plant
15 communities. Doing this now will be cost efficient and
16 will support the climate goals they set forth with the
17 State of North Carolina. Furthermore, I ask that Duke
18 take on the role of a good corporate citizen and an
19 industry leader in addressing and reversing climate
20 change.

21 In closing, I and the others who speak on this
22 issue look to North Carolina Public Utility Commission to
23 protect us and our communities. Thank you so much.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.

1 Ekaireb. Are there questions from the parties or
2 Commissioners?

3 (No response.)

4 I don't see any, so, again, thank you for
5 speaking to us this evening at this hearing. We
6 appreciate it.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you for your time.
8 Goodnight.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Goodnight. Ms.
10 Cummings?

11 MS. CUMMINGS: Our next witness is Stephen
12 Carter.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
14 Carter? Are you there?

15 MR. CARTER: Yes. Yes, I am.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let's give
17 you the oath, please.

18 STEPHEN CARTER; Having first been duly affirmed,
19 Testified as follows:

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

22 THE WITNESS: My name is Stephen Carter. My
23 address is 201 River Ridge Drive, Asheville, North
24 Carolina, and my provider is Duke Power Progress.

1 STATEMENT BY MR. CARTER:

2 I thought to speak on why we need to
3 decentralize the sources of power to create many modes of
4 reduced polluting power sources, creating local citizen
5 involvement awareness, involvement responsibility, to
6 speak about the lack of responsiveness by Duke Power to
7 the needs and requests of the customers their monopoly
8 serves, the way the regulatory bodies seem to be in the
9 pocket of the Utility, but after listening to all the
10 well-thought-out, well-reasoned testimony before this
11 Commission, I can't help but think I don't need to do
12 that. It's all so one sided. Where are all the people
13 supporting Duke Power's figures and plans?

14 So instead of repeating all that, here we are
15 now, we're now into a planet-wide scenario of rapidly-
16 rising global warming clearly caused by human activity,
17 releasing methane and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
18 Tipping points have been reached and exceeded. Likely,
19 we will experience many changes worldwide and our
20 civilization will be greatly changed in the next 20 to 50
21 years. And the most our regional mega power Utility is
22 willing to do about it is offer up a plan that will
23 reduce their mega methane and carbon dioxide emissions at
24 just about the time the resulting mega storms and ocean

1 rise will have shut down their coal, gas, and other power
2 plants anyway. The migrating coastal populations likely
3 have overrun and trashed their offices, their officers
4 will have fled to high ground, and the technicians long
5 since joined the exodus. The distribution stations will
6 have been blown out by lightning strikes, the power lines
7 broken by debris from 300-mile-per-hour mega storms, and
8 I suspect there won't be anybody left around to repair
9 them.

10 So you may say this is just another apocalyptic
11 scenario, but I think it's getting more and more probable
12 by the year that the poles melt, the Greenland ice cap
13 gets closer to slipping into the ocean, likely shutting
14 down or diverting the Gulf Stream. That will be
15 extremely good for quarterly profits, if anyone still
16 knows what that means by then.

17 Of course, we don't know for sure just which of
18 these possible disaster scenarios will come about or
19 exactly when. We do know that the rate of ice melt,
20 temperature rise, sea level rise, ocean warming, and
21 possible deep sea layer inversion, releasing vast amounts
22 of methane, will occur in the next 50 to 100 years and
23 perhaps much sooner. The rate of change of the effects
24 causing these changes, as many others have mentioned in

1 these hearings, is increasing far faster than earlier
2 predictions.

3 Let's remember, we see from basic physics and
4 math about the difference between velocity and
5 acceleration. Yes, indeed, it does apply to more than
6 just cars and trains. If you know how fast, you know how
7 long it takes to get from where we start to where we're
8 going. If a glacier is melting at 100 feet per year and
9 it's 5,000 feet long, it will melt completely in 50
10 years, but when we notice that a global climate change is
11 happening faster and faster, partly thanks to Duke Power
12 pumping out all that CO2 and methane, the rate that the
13 glacier and all the other ice on the planet is melting is
14 going faster and faster as well. I realize that may come
15 as quite a surprise to the people at Duke Power. Who
16 would have guessed? And now each year the melting is
17 happening faster and faster, so the next year the glacier
18 melts at 150 feet per year, then 200 feet per year, and
19 suddenly we notice it is melting at 400 feet per year.
20 Not only is the rate of melting increasing each year, but
21 the rate of increase is increasing.

22 While the news media may have trouble
23 explaining such content in 20-second sound bites, we
24 might expect the highly educated and thoughtful

1 executives and engineers at Duke Power would have this
2 pretty well in hand. They seem to understand compound
3 interest, shareholder returns on investment, that sort of
4 thing, so we can expect they understand just what their
5 plan for the next 30 years involves in accelerating the
6 rate of change of climate change to the point where the
7 entire world becomes uninhabitable.

8 So I think the leadership at Duke Power really
9 do understand the consequences of their plan. I know
10 that many of the people working with and for Duke Power
11 are sincere, good people. Perhaps some of them are
12 simply deluded or haven't thought about it enough or
13 really just need the job, but it's hard not to think that
14 there are some at high levels who are truly criminal.
15 They may tell us and themselves about financial
16 responsibility to maximize quarterly shareholder profits,
17 their need to draw six- and seven-figure salaries to keep
18 their vacation homes and pay for those fancy private
19 schools, but if enough of our civilization does survive
20 long enough to bring to justice the perpetrators
21 responsible for the hundreds of millions of deaths, the
22 drowned cities, the reshaping of the very continent,
23 surely the architect and apologist of this business-as-
24 usual plan from Duke Power will be at the head of that

1 docket. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
3 Carter. Does anyone have questions they want to ask Mr.
4 Carter this evening?

5 (No response.)

6 If not, then Mr. Carter, again, thank you for
7 participating in the hearing.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

11 MS. CUMMINGS: The next witness is Stephen
12 Jurovics.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You're -- again, the
14 last word in your sentences tends to drop off in volume,
15 so give me another try here.

16 MS. CUMMINGS: Stephen Jurovics.

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
18 Jurovics, are you there?

19 MR. JUROVICS: Yes, I am.

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Did we get
21 the name right?

22 MR. JUROVICS: J-U-R-O-V-I-C-S.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, sir. Let
24 me give you the oath.

1 STEPHEN JUROVICS; Having first been duly affirmed,
2 Testified as follows:

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
4 proceed, sir.

5 THE WITNESS: My name is Stephen Jurovics. I
6 live at 4826 Rembert Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina. My
7 electricity provider is Duke Energy.

8 STATEMENT BY MR. JUROVICS:

9 Thanks for this opportunity to speak about Duke
10 Energy's IRP for 2020 to 2035. My concern is Duke's
11 projection of only somewhat more than a 15 percent
12 reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. This
13 high-tech company has apparently not accepted that the
14 world is in an environmental crisis and business as usual
15 is no longer an option.

16 Duke kindly invited me in the fall of 2020 to
17 join a webinar they were conducting along with the
18 National Renewable Energy Lab, NREL. Duke had apparently
19 engaged NREL to conduct simulations to determine the
20 Company's ability to attain, one, a 70 percent reduction
21 in carbon dioxide emissions relative to 2005 by year
22 2030, the North Carolina Clean Energy Plan figure, and,
23 two, zero net energy by 2050. On Slide 28, from notes I
24 took, the speaker said a 70 percent reduction by 2030 is

1 doable. It requires a buildout of solar plus batteries
2 and some wind energy. I have no notes about a
3 particularly high cost. The speaker said a path to zero
4 net energy is not yet clear. Plus, NREL, hired by Duke,
5 reported that Duke could achieve a 70 percent reduction
6 in CO2 emissions by 2030. Nothing extraordinary is
7 involved.

8 I urge the North Carolina Utility Commission to
9 persuade or require Duke to set a path in which they will
10 reach a 70 percent reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030.
11 This is critical for North Carolina, the US, and the
12 world.

13 North Carolina has about 300 miles of
14 coastline, with hundreds of millions of dollars invested
15 in commercial, residential, and industrial properties.
16 All of that is jeopardized by, to name just a few
17 effects, sea level rise and storms increasing in
18 frequency and intensity. Abandoning properties and
19 relocating people and businesses from coastal areas that
20 have become uninhabitable because of frequent flooding,
21 which has already happened in Louisiana and Alaska,
22 salinization of farmland, the spreading of ghost forests,
23 forests of dead trees due to salt water moving inland
24 such as we see in the Alligator River National Wildlife

1 Refuge.

2 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,
3 IPCC, reported that the world must attain a significant
4 reduction in CO2 emissions in the 2020 to 2030 decade or
5 face the inevitability of a temperature increase of two
6 degrees or more and the pain and enormous cost that will
7 bring. While some people cite the cost to mitigate
8 climate change, they do not mention the broad, higher
9 cost to deal with the effects of climate change. The
10 Swiss Re group is one of the world's largest providers of
11 reinsurance and insurance. The Swiss Re Institute, part
12 of the group reported in April 2021 that the world
13 economy is set to lose up to 18 percent in GDP from
14 climate change if no action is taken. That figure could
15 drop to four percent if all countries met their targets
16 in the Paris Agreement. The US is one of the largest
17 emitters, and Duke Energy, as one of our largest
18 utilities, is a major contributor to America's total. To
19 drop from 18 percent to four percent is huge and provides
20 a significant incentive to meet America's target.

21 I urge the North Carolina Utility Commission to
22 require or persuade Duke Energy to plan toward attaining
23 a 70 percent reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030, and
24 thereby make its contribution to meeting the US Paris

1 Agreement target and to protecting North Carolina's
2 economy. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, sir. Are
4 there any questions from Commissioners or other parties?

5 (No response.)

6 If not, Mr. Jurovics, thank you for being with
7 us this evening.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
11 Cummings?

12 MS. CUMMINGS: Our next witness is Vinit Allen.

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
14 Allen, are you there?

15 MR. ALLEN: Yes. I'm here.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let me swear
17 you in.

18 MR. ALLEN: Sure.

19 VINIT ALLEN; Having first been duly affirmed,
20 Testified as follows:

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
22 continue, sir.

23 THE WITNESS: Okay. Great. I am here
24 representing the Sierra Club. I live in Weaverville, and

1 French Broad Electric is my electric company, but Duke
2 certainly affects us all.

3 STATEMENT BY MR. ALLEN:

4 I just want to say, first of all, that I'm so
5 impressed with the intelligence, the clarity, and the
6 passion of everybody I've heard on this call. And I'm so
7 appreciating the level of input that these people are
8 willing to give, and I'm grateful to be part of citizens
9 really showing up to defend -- defend their rights and,
10 you know, fight for a healthy planet here.

11 So my key talking points are -- hold on a
12 second -- are to retire all coal by 2030; two, to replace
13 with clean energy renewables and energy efficiency; and
14 three, no new gas plants or pipelines.

15 Duke's coal plants are already uneconomic and
16 costing ratepayers billions of dollars. They must be
17 shut down now for the benefit of our wallets, our health,
18 and our climate.

19 Duke's IRPs should accelerate retirement of all
20 coal plants, close half of its coal fleet by 2025,
21 achieve coal-free energy by 2030, and include support for
22 just community-led transition plans for coal plant
23 communities. Duke needs to stop all new gas investments
24 and minimize the risk of uneconomic assets on their

1 system. Thirteen more gas plants will lock North and
2 South Carolinians into more fossil fuel energy for
3 decades. Many of these plants will be economically
4 obsolete in a few years as solar and storage become
5 cheaper than new gas plants.

6 Duke should achieve at least 55 percent
7 renewable energy by 2035. A recent study showed that the
8 Carolinas could boost renewable energy to 66 percent in
9 North Carolina, while decreasing cost to ratepayers,
10 seeing home-grown clean energy boost the economy,
11 provides gas to to landowners, and creates local jobs.

12 New power generation should be acquired through
13 a technology-neutral competitive process that
14 transparently weighs cost and benefits and considers all
15 alternatives, including clean energy portfolios of
16 renewables, energy efficiency, and demand response. Duke
17 needs to tap into customers' distributed energy resources
18 in its energy plan and allow customer-sited solar and
19 storage systems to participate as a resource. Despite
20 promises by Duke Energy, the ball has barely moved
21 forward on a more modern, more distributed grid. With
22 Duke proposing major updates to the grid and operations
23 through its Grid Improvement Plan and integrated system
24 and operations planning, now is the time to expand the

1 role of clean distributed resources.

2 Duke must take proactive steps to reduce the
3 short- and long-term energy burden of its customers,
4 especially low- to moderate-income customers, and provide
5 forgiveness and management plans to all customers facing
6 mounting utility debt exacerbated by the pandemic. In
7 addition to addressing affordability, Duke should also
8 ensure that all families have equitable access to clean
9 energy. Finally, energy efficiency and demand response
10 are the least cost ways to meet the grid's needs. Duke
11 must maximize all energy efficiency options prior to
12 building any new generation in order to keep cost low for
13 all ratepayers and avoid unnecessary investment in
14 higher-cost fossil fuel energy.

15 And the last thing I'll say is that I knew in
16 2005 the severity and the basics of climate change and
17 the basics of how it worked. Scientists understood that
18 in 1988. We certainly all understand it by now. So this
19 is very late in the game. There's no reason that any of
20 this should -- should be necessary for us to be on this
21 call at all, but it certainly is necessary since Duke
22 just isn't living up to what they need to do. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Allen.
24 Does anyone have questions for Mr. Allen this evening?

1 (No response.)

2 All right. Seeing none, again, thank you for
3 joining us and for sharing your views. We appreciate it.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes. Thank you for having me. I
5 really appreciate the listening, yeah. Thanks.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

8 MS. CUMMINGS: Next up is Finn Harlan.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.
10 Harlan, are you there?

11 MR. HARLAN: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Harlan. I'm
13 sorry. I apologize to you. Let me give you the
14 oath --

15 MR. HARLAN: I'm a he.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- please.

17 MR. HARLAN: I'm a he. I'm a he.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay.

19 FINN HARLAN; Having first been duly affirmed,
20 Testified as follows:

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Thank you very
22 much. Again, give us your name, your address, and who
23 provides your electricity, and then proceed.

24 MR. HARLAN: My name is Finn Harlan. I live on

1 64 Walker Creek Road, Barnardsville, North Carolina,
2 energy provided Duke Energy.

3 STATEMENT BY MR. HARLAN:

4 I'm a seven-year-old little boy. I think we
5 should stop using coal to make energy. I -- it will help
6 my life be a lot better, so I want to breathe good air,
7 not bad air. I think we should use the sun to make
8 energy or solar panels that helps get sun like to make
9 energy, or I think we should use the wind energy which
10 also would be great.

11 People are all dying across the world. Will
12 you please step up and save us? I really want to be able
13 to breathe good air, not bad air, and I want to be
14 protected with good air. Will you please protect me from
15 breathing bad air? Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you. Well, you
17 may be one of the youngest speakers that I think we've
18 had in these hearings and maybe in all of our hearings,
19 so we really do appreciate your taking time this evening.
20 Let me ask you, where do you -- are you in school?

21 THE WITNESS: No.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: You're not.

23 THE WITNESS: Well, yes. I am -- I am right
24 now, but -- I am, but not right now.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Not right now. Where
2 do you go to school?

3 THE WITNESS: Isaac Dickson.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Very good. Well,
5 listen, I think you -- you're already studying well in
6 advance of being a seven-year-old, so we thank you for
7 that. Let me see if any of the Commissioners --

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: -- want to ask you
10 anything.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

12 (No response.)

13 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Will (sic)
14 Harlan. We appreciate you being with us this evening.

15 THE WITNESS: Thanks.

16 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings, who's
17 next?

18 MS. CUMMINGS: Next up is Becky Robinson.

19 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
20 Robinson, are you there?

21 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, I am.

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We get a
23 little bit of background noise. Let's try.

24 MS. ROBINSON: Sorry. I'm moving to a higher

1 spot. Is that better?

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: That's much, much
3 better. We thank you for doing that. Let me give you
4 the oath, please.

5 BECKY ROBINSON; Having first been duly affirmed,
6 Testified as follows:

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
8 proceed, then.

9 THE WITNESS: My name is Becky Robinson. I
10 live at 8004 Elderson Lane in Raleigh, and my energy
11 provider is Duke Energy Progress.

12 STATEMENT BY MS. ROBINSON:

13 I want to start by thanking the Commissioners
14 for agreeing to listen to all 200 or so of us commenters.
15 It must seem like there's a lot of us who are suddenly so
16 interested in the way that we generate our electricity.

17 I would like to use my time to discuss my
18 personal perspective. I was born in 1987. The
19 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was founded in
20 1988. As a world, we've been trying to figure out what
21 to do about climate change for my entire life. I'm 33
22 years old. In my time on earth here, I have grown up,
23 gone to school, undergraduate degree, and worked in my
24 career for nearly 10 years. I've fallen in love, gotten

1 married, traveled the world, bought and renovated a
2 house. And what have we done on climate change all this
3 time? Next to nothing.

4 Here in the United States we've been pretty
5 terrible at global cooperation and failed to do much in
6 the way of federal policy, opting instead to let the
7 states figure it out. And since the way we generate
8 electricity has a huge impact on our emissions, the
9 responsibility for saving our souls from the devastating
10 impacts of climate change will end with us here on this
11 Zoom call, the North Carolina Utilities Commission and
12 Duke Energy.

13 Scientists are saying that the next five to
14 seven years are our last chance to curb our emissions
15 drastically in order to keep the warming, sea level rise,
16 and natural disasters to a "manageable level." Now is
17 not the time for incremental change. We have the
18 affordable technology in wind, solar, and storage that we
19 need to make this happen, and fortunately, wind and sun
20 are bountiful here in North Carolina. Building any new
21 fossil fuel infrastructure is counterproductive,
22 especially natural gas, since we know that releases
23 methane, and methane has 80 times the greenhouse effect
24 as CO2.

1 We need new Integrated Resource Plans that
2 takes into account the financial cost of climate impacts
3 and the financial cost of air pollution on the physical
4 and mental health of frontline residents, and we need
5 access to clean energy for all North Carolinians, so
6 access to like community solar and competitive energy
7 procurement for ratepayers are absolutely essential to
8 have in their plan.

9 I want to continue to enjoy this planet for my
10 next 33 years, and I want people born today and future
11 generations to live in the same hospitable environment
12 that I was fortunate to grow up in. Let's act now and
13 let's be good ancestors. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
15 Robinson. Does anyone have questions for Ms. Robinson?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Seeing none, Ms.
18 Robinson, again, thank you for your patience and for
19 joining us this evening.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

21 (Witness excused.)

22 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

23 MS. CUMMINGS: Next up is Catherine Denham.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Catherine Denham, are

1 you there?

2 MS. DENHAM: Yes, I am.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. We can hear
4 you just fine, so let me give you the oath, please.

5 CATHERINE DENHAM; Having first been duly affirmed,
6 Testified as follows:

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
8 continue, ma'am.

9 THE WITNESS: I'm Catherine Denham. I'm
10 usually called Cathy. I live at 111 Peters Place,
11 Davidson, North Carolina, and my power company is Duke
12 Energy, and my husband says Arcadia Power somewhere mixed
13 in there. We also use natural gas.

14 STATEMENT BY MS. DENHAM:

15 I wanted to share that I am a mother of two
16 grown children, and I am an elementary science teacher
17 and I get to run my school garden. And I wanted to start
18 simply by saying that climate change is with us now
19 because me and all the children that I teach in the
20 garden can experience it. When we try to plant our
21 spring lettuce seeds now, increasingly, we get a
22 torrential rain and it washes all our lettuce seeds away.
23 And then the temperature will spike way up, and the next
24 lettuce seeds we try to plant again will get cooked.

1 Even children can see that things are changing, and not
2 for the better. So I would ask the Commissioners to
3 please reject Duke Energy's IRP to save our children's
4 future and to save our garden right now.

5 We need to transition away from fossil fuels.
6 Duke Power must do that. And then start using -- switch
7 to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. I've
8 heard that from a number of witnesses, including the
9 child who also can just see the logic there. We have
10 lots of wind and lots of sun in North Carolina. The
11 technology is there. When my daughter built a house in
12 Virginia, she put solar panels on. You know, we're
13 there. We just have to make the transition.

14 I would ask you also to -- in order to get to
15 renewables, we really do need to close the coal-fired
16 power plants. I live along the Catawba River near
17 Charlotte, and I think we have eight large coal-fired
18 power plants along the Catawba, and we need to retire
19 those. Coal, of course, is warming the planet, burning
20 coal is warming the planet, and it makes the air in the
21 Charlotte region not meet EPA guidelines, which causes
22 asthma. And I teach children, and I know what a problem
23 that has become.

24 And, also, please do not let Duke Power start

1 any new gas -- fracked gas plants because my grown
2 daughters say we've got to keep it in the ground to save
3 the planet, and that means keep the gas in the ground,
4 too, and switch to renewables.

5 I know that you take your duty seriously, so
6 thank you very much for listening. I wanted to add that
7 as a science teacher, I teach children about all the
8 pollinators and the butterflies and all of those
9 wonderful things that are so wondrous about science. And
10 the Monarch butterflies which migrate, along with
11 migratory birds which also migrate, are especially
12 endangered by climate change because they have to fly
13 through this increasingly erratic weather, and it will be
14 too cold and then too hot and too much rain. And, of
15 course, that affects us humans, but we can go inside, and
16 the Monarch butterflies, whose numbers are down 90
17 percent, cannot go inside. And so I would just ask you
18 to please protect our children's future and our natural
19 heritage, which includes birds, butterflies, and all of
20 God's creatures.

21 We have to change now, and I would ask you to
22 -- it's really simple. You have a mandate provided by
23 the rapidly changing weather on our planet, climate on
24 our planet and what it's causing, and we just have to

1 switch to renewables, so please reject the IRP. And
2 there have been so many very eloquent speakers, but I
3 wanted to simply speak personally about my experience as
4 an elementary science teacher. We're seeing the climate
5 change now, and it's not good. It's harder to grow food,
6 and that means it's going to be harder to grow food for
7 everyone. Thank you very much for your attention. I
8 appreciate it very much.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
10 Denham, and thank you for the work you're doing. It's
11 some of the most important work there is, so we
12 appreciate that, too.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Are there questions
15 for Ms. Denham?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: I don't see any, so,
18 again, thank you for waiting with us this evening and
19 sharing your views. We appreciate it.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. Goodnight.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Goodnight. Ms.
22 Cummings?

23 MS. CUMMINGS: Next up is David Anderson.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Mr.

1 Anderson, are you there?

2 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, I am.

3 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Great. Let me swear
4 you in, please.

5 DAVID ANDERSON; Having first been duly affirmed,
6 Testified as follows:

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
8 continue, sir.

9 THE WITNESS: My name is David Anderson. My
10 address is 1925 Trent River Avenue, Wake Forest, North
11 Carolina. My electric provider is Wake EMC Co-op, and my
12 gas provider is Dominion Gas.

13 STATEMENT BY MR. ANDERSON:

14 Thank you for this opportunity to speak to the
15 Commission in reference to one of the most important
16 decisions you will be making in all of our lifetimes. I
17 highly endorse all of the comments made by all of the
18 previous speakers. The climate crisis is real, has
19 already started, and will continue for many centuries.
20 The CO2 concentration in the atmosphere now is higher
21 than it has been for millions of years.

22 There are several points I would like to stress
23 to you tonight. First, the crisis is more urgent than
24 most people know; second, the risk of catastrophe is

1 greater than most people know; and third, we've known
2 about it for much longer than most people know.

3 The urgency. The IPCC published a special
4 report in 2018 focusing on warming of 1.5 versus 2
5 degrees C. Although this difference may seem small to
6 us, on a global level it can have disastrous outcomes.
7 In Chapter 2 is a table and graph outlining various
8 estimated remaining global CO2 emission budgets for
9 different amounts of maximum warming. A close study of
10 this graph and table reveal the following: The estimated
11 emission budgets are an overestimate of what the actual
12 budget may be due to ignoring methane and other
13 greenhouse gases, ignoring the many feedback loops that
14 have been discovered, and ignoring the tipping points
15 that exist.

16 The emission budgets are a function of how much
17 risk of failure in limiting warming we are willing to
18 accept. More risk of failure implies a larger emission
19 budget; less risk of failure implies a smaller emission
20 budget. Most media reports have focused on a budget that
21 has a 50-50 chance of success, which to my mind is
22 unacceptable. Would you allow your children to fly if
23 the lifetime risk of dying in a plane crash were 50-50?
24 A more acceptable level of risk would be either two out

1 of three chance of success, or even better, a five out of
2 six chance of success. According to the report, assuming
3 a five out of six chance of success of keeping warming to
4 no more than 1.5 degrees C, global -- global CO2
5 emissions must be reduced this year and reach zero at no
6 later than 2028; not 2050, not 2035, or even 2030.

7 It is no wonder that the climate scientists
8 worry that from a practical standpoint, we have already
9 blown past being able to limit warming to 1.5 degrees C,
10 and most likely 2 degrees, and are on our way to 3
11 degrees C. We need major action now.

12 Risk of catastrophe is greater. Study of
13 earth's climate history has already shown that there have
14 been five mass extinctions when between 70 and 95 percent
15 of all life and species were destroyed. All of these
16 events were caused by some form of global climate
17 catastrophe. Two were cooling events when the earth was
18 nearly or completely covered in ice, two were caused by
19 catastrophic global warming. Famously, the extinction of
20 the dinosaurs was due to an asteroid strike in
21 conjunction with a volcanism event which resulted in a
22 global climate crisis.

23 The risk we take is that our emissions may
24 trigger strong feedback loops of warming which could

1 result in the release of vast amounts of CO2 and methane
2 that had been sequestered in the permafrost and the ocean
3 floors, resulting in even more warming temperatures. At
4 some point the climate might spiral out of our ability to
5 manage due to these feedback loops and lead to a global
6 mass extinction. We have known for a long time.

7 Scientists first measured the properties of the
8 atmospheric gases in the 1800s. Svante Arrhenius first
9 calculated the impact of adding CO2 to the atmosphere
10 during the 1890s. Temperatures during the 1930s were
11 noticed to be warmer than previous decades. Oil
12 companies studied and knew the impact of burning fossil
13 fuels during the 1950s. Their only concern was how to
14 avoid blame for what was to come. The US government was
15 warned during the early 1960s, the power utilities knew
16 in the '70s, as did the environmental activists. All of
17 us could have known since the 1950s.

18 We can fix this, but we need to act now. I ask
19 that the Commission immediately take the following
20 actions: Reject this IRP in its entirety, none of the
21 six scenarios are acceptable; call for an evidentiary
22 hearing to determine what are actually reasonable costs
23 for fossil fuel versus clean, renewable power generation
24 installation; direct Duke to close all coal plants by

1 2030; direct Duke to develop a plan to increase solar,
2 wind, and battery storage electricity generation to
3 result in zero greenhouse gas emissions for all power
4 generation in North Carolina by 2030. If we work
5 together, if we act now, we can ensure the safety and
6 prosperity of our children, grandchildren, our country,
7 and our planet for the future.

8 Thank you for listening, and I will be posting
9 my comments to the docket.

10 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
11 Anderson. We appreciate your appearing this evening.
12 Does anyone have questions they want to ask?

13 (No response.)

14 I don't see any, so we'll let you go, or you
15 can stay with us. We appreciate your coming.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

19 MS. CUMMINGS: Yes. Our next witness is Jill
20 Hinkley-Noble.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Ms.
22 Hinkley-Noble, are you there?

23 MS. HINKLEY-NOBLE: Yes, I am. Can you hear
24 me?

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Can hear you just
2 fine, so let me give you the oath.

3 JILL HINKLEY-NOBLE; Having first been duly affirmed,
4 Testified as follows:

5 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
6 proceed, ma'am.

7 THE WITNESS: My name is Jill Hinkley-Noble,
8 and I can spell that if you wish. I live at 712 Cascade
9 Avenue in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. My energy
10 provider is Duke Energy.

11 STATEMENT BY MS. HINKLEY-NOBLE:

12 I want to speak from the perspective of a nurse
13 who worked in public health for at least 12 years. And
14 public health nurses focus on population health. What I
15 saw as a nurse care manager was increasing numbers of
16 children with asthma, being diagnosed at the earliest
17 possible ages of six months of age. My job was to follow
18 up on emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

19 The working poor were not able to take their
20 asthmatic children to appointments because of their work
21 hours and their lack of transportation, so they end up in
22 the emergency room, which is a spotty kind of care and a
23 huge cost to our economy. These are not people with good
24 insurance. These are people, many of them, on Medicaid,

1 which drains the coffers.

2 I moved to North Carolina in 1983, and I found
3 a wonderful, beautiful state, with fine education
4 institutions, cutting edge medical schools, natural
5 beauty, smart, vibrant people and communities, and I want
6 to be proud of my state. In 1996 I developed asthma
7 myself. I have to take medicine every day to avoid an
8 asthma attack.

9 I think North Carolina has more potential
10 than to keep going with a plan like this IRP that puts
11 the population at risk, at higher risk, not just our
12 population in North Carolina, but the entire world's
13 population. We are contributors. And I don't think Duke
14 Energy will lose any face by reconsidering and saying
15 we're going to do something different. We're going to be
16 cutting-edge, renewable energy providers, and we will
17 attract smart, forward-thinking corporations to our
18 state. We will avoid mass disasters, which is another
19 part of population health.

20 I work with seniors now, and I have many senior
21 clients who have severe lung disease and they never
22 smoked, but they've lived here their whole lives.

23 I hope that my testimony is helpful, and I
24 appreciate the chance to speak.

1 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
2 Hinkley-Noble, and, again, thank you for sharing the
3 particular perspective you bring from your profession.
4 We appreciate it. Does anyone have questions? Anyone
5 have questions for Ms. Hinkley-Noble?

6 (No response.)

7 Seeing none, we thank you again for providing
8 your testimony this evening.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you for providing the
10 platform.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Ms. Cummings?

13 MS. CUMMINGS: Commissioner Clodfelter, at this
14 time we have reached the end of our known callers. We
15 have two mystery callers, and at this time I believe John
16 McCoy will open the line one at a time, if that's all
17 right, and ask who's on the line.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. That's
19 fine. Mr. McCoy, you may proceed.

20 MR. McCOY: Hello. Are you there?

21 MR. RUNDLE: This is Steve Rundle on the line,
22 if you can hear me. This is Steve Rundle on the line, if
23 you can hear me.

24 MR. McCOY: Yes, we can.

1 MR. RUNDLE: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Mr. Rundle, let me --
3 I wanted to check my list here, and then let me give you
4 the oath here.

5 STEVE RUNDLE; Having first been duly affirmed,
6 Testified as follows:

7 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
8 continue, sir.

9 MR. RUNDLE: My name is Steve Rundle, that's
10 R-U-N-D-L-E, and I reside at 4331 Eagle Lake Drive in
11 Charlotte, North Carolina. I'm a resident of Mecklenburg
12 County and in the Duke Energy customer zone. I'm also
13 the Climate Justice and Green Jobs Development Co-Chair
14 for the local Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP here in
15 Charlotte, however, I'm speaking as a private citizen
16 tonight.

17 STATEMENT BY MR. RUNDLE:

18 The recent Colonial Pipeline ransomware
19 incident and the blackout in Texas this past winter
20 really showed the susceptibility of centralized utilities
21 to not only weather-related disasters, but the bad actors
22 that are increasingly gaining traction across the world.

23 I'm speaking tonight, urging the Utilities
24 Commission to have Duke go back and rework their IRP to

1 focus on distributed approaches that avoid the
2 vulnerabilities and downside of a strictly centralized
3 generation approach, and work on distributed and
4 resilient distribution.

5 One of the things I see on the horizon with
6 Duke's IRP is a heavy focus on centralized natural gas
7 generation and pipeline assets that not only can be
8 vulnerable, but run a substantial risk of becoming
9 stranded assets in the out years as further environmental
10 advances take place with this administration and
11 worldwide. The projected shift to electric vehicles by
12 2035 is going to -- is going to place an additional
13 charging burden on Duke's grid. So what I would urge the
14 Commissioners to ask for is Duke to provide an IRP cap
15 based on the distributed approach, not only to compensate
16 for this increased demand, but to avoid the
17 vulnerabilities of centralized distribution pipelines and
18 similar centralized facilities.

19 By focusing on distributed and resilience
20 assets, the first thing I would urge is dramatically
21 reducing demand through expanding the existing
22 weatherization services that Duke offers, working with
23 the state weatherization assistance providers to really
24 go out and provide deep retrofits to many of the

1 residences and businesses in Duke's territories, really
2 working towards a 30 percent reduction goal in energy
3 demand throughout the territories.

4 Along with that, I would urge generating
5 distributed energy through rooftop and community solar,
6 and the division of the territories into resilient
7 microgrids, with grid level -- with grid level or
8 residential storage. The goal would be to orderly build
9 out the territories into a series of distributed
10 microgrids with their own storage generation and reduce
11 demand so that if you had a ransomware incident or bad
12 actor or weather-related disaster, your -- the main grid
13 may be affected, but it may be a couple days before the
14 storage runs out, and anyone who is not tuned into the
15 news, again, knows because their electricity wouldn't be
16 affected.

17 Duke's new billing system allows for third-
18 party billing that could help finance these energy
19 efficiency retrofits in solar using the budget that
20 they've allowed for natural gas and applying it to demand
21 reduction and applying it to distributed buildout,
22 microgrids, and storage.

23 And, basically, I would urge the Commissioners
24 to ask Duke to go back -- come back to the table with

1 distributed resilience and an equitable approach because
2 what we find is communities of color and black and brown
3 areas of the cities are deeply affected by not only the
4 pollution side, but the high energy burdens due to lack
5 of insulation that would benefit dramatically through a
6 distributed energy efficiency retrofit generation and
7 microgrid division.

8 So I will leave it at that. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
10 Rundle, and thank you for your patience. You're close to
11 the end of this evening, so thank you for waiting with us
12 and for appearing. Does anyone have any questions for
13 Mr. Rundle?

14 (No response.)

15 I don't see any questions, so Ms. Cummings, Mr.
16 McCoy, I understand we have one other caller?

17 MS. CUMMINGS: That's right.

18 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Who do we have
19 joining us?

20 MS. NORVAL: Elizabeth Norval, N-O-R-V-A-L.

21 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Yes, Ms. Norval.
22 You're on the list for this evening, so we thank you for
23 joining us. Let me give you the oath, please.

24 ELIZABETH NORVAL; Having first been duly affirmed,

1 Testified as follows:

2 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Please
3 proceed, ma'am.

4 THE WITNESS: My name is Elizabeth Norval.
5 That's N-O-R-V-A-L. I live at 300 Lord Berkley Road in
6 Raleigh. Duke Energy Progress is my energy provider.

7 STATEMENT BY MS. NORVAL:

8 And I thank the Commissioners for putting
9 democracy into practice by holding these hearings. I
10 have lived in countries where the citizens were not
11 considered. I endorse the views of the previous speakers
12 who have spoken very eloquently and from fact. I grew up
13 in South Africa. I became a teacher. I married a
14 scientist from Zimbabwe whose expertise allowed us the
15 opportunity to immigrate to the United States.

16 When we lived in Africa, we looked to the
17 United States to lead us in the realm of science and
18 technology, to lead the whole world. And it blew my mind
19 when I heard that Duke Energy was determined to continue
20 with the use of getting energy from coal, which is so
21 behind the times. There is clear scientific evidence to
22 show that renewable energy is both efficient and cost
23 effective. I feel that the people in the United States
24 should be setting an example to people all over the

1 world.

2 I'm a member of the Unitarian Universalist
3 Peace Fellowship. Our seventh principle is respect for
4 the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a
5 part. There are 60 members in my fellowship. People
6 there often speak of their concern for their environ---
7 for the environment and for our whole planet.

8 There have been many people speaking to you
9 this evening, Commissioners. Please bear in mind that
10 there are many, many other people who agree with what the
11 speakers here have said tonight, but they were unable to
12 make the commitment to be here. What you decide will
13 affect so many. Please hold Duke Energy accountable.
14 Thank you for considering my concerns.

15 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Thank you, Ms.
16 Norval. Are there any questions for Ms. Norval?

17 (No response.)

18 All right. I see none.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: So Ms. Cummings, I
21 think that brings us to the end of the registered
22 speakers; is that correct?

23 MS. CUMMINGS: That is all of our speakers.

24 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: All right. Let me

1 then ask counsel, are there any concluding matters we
2 need to discuss before we adjourn for the evening?

3 MR. KAYLOR: None for Duke Energy.

4 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: Okay. Seeing none,
5 Ms. Cummings, remind me again, our last session is May
6 27; is that correct? Is my memory correct?

7 MS. CUMMINGS: I think the next one is
8 Wednesday, which is May 26th.

9 COMMISSIONER CLODFELTER: May 26th will be our
10 next session, again, at 6:00 p.m. And remember, if you
11 want to follow these sessions, again, please go to the
12 Commission's website, and you can find the YouTube link
13 there. I thank everyone who was a participant in the
14 hearing this evening, thanks to the Commissioners and the
15 counsel. And with that, Ms. Garrett, we will conclude
16 for the evening. Thank you all.

17 (The hearing was adjourned.)

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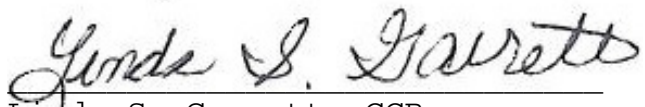
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

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 27th day of May, 2021.



Linda S. Garrett, CCR
Notary Public No. 19971700150