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February 20, 2020

North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27669-4300

FILED

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Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

RE: Duke Energy Proposed Electric Rate Increase
Docket #E-7 SUB 1214

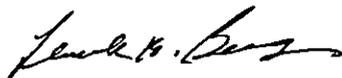
Gentlemen:

I am absolutely opposed to the Duke Energy proposed rate increase of 10.3%. These are just a few of the reasons why:

1. The cost of living allowance by the Federal Government was stated as being 1.6% for 2020. This may not apply to everything, but this is a long way from 10.3%.
2. Duke's "refund of certain tax benefits" would be 6.7%. No specific explanation for that reduction was given. Whose taxes? What benefits? How long in effect? The 6.7% is excessive.
3. The "coal ash" problem has existed for some years, but Duke Energy management has not addressed it in any meaningful way. They are now looking for an increased rate to bail them out for mismanagement.
4. Duke always falls back on environmental excuses such as more windmills and solar power. We take valuable farmland out of production for both. We are a long way from using sun and wind as a viable power source.
5. The reduction of Florida rates by 3% and the increase by Duke of all others was not addressed by Duke as to why.
6. North Carolina has refused to decontrol electric rates while other states have this in place such as Texas. This decontrol has led to more competition and lower rates for consumers which is a good thing.
7. NC Utilities Commission approved the take over by Duke of Piedmont Natural Gas in the past years. This placed Duke in a position to control two major power sources, natural gas and electric. A big mistake that was not for the customer's benefit.

I suggest if any increase is granted Duke Energy it should be limited to no more than 2.5%.

Sincerely,



Frank K. Berry
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