



City of Asheville
Office of the Mayor
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May 3, 2023

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

Re: Duke Energy Progress, LLC Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 9.5 MW Solar Generating Facility in Buncombe County, Docket No. E-2 Sub 1311

Dear Ms. Dunston,

The City of Asheville has adopted aggressive climate change goals and strategies; to achieve these goals, measurements of progress are based on access to clean renewable energy in Buncombe County, N.C. The City of Asheville strongly supports approval of the proposed 9.5 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility, known as Asheville Plant Solar Facility, to be located at Duke Energy Progress' existing Asheville Plant, approximately one mile from Asheville.

The City of Asheville values and supports Duke Energy's promise to the Asheville community through their Modernization Plan, in connection with closure of the Asheville coal plant, to replace it with a new gas plant, 15 MW of solar, 5 MW of battery storage, and a partnership with the City and County to reduce peak demand to delay or eliminate the need for a new peaker Plant.

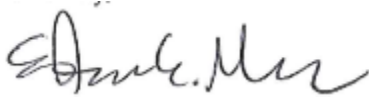
Specifically, the support of Duke Energy's solar project helps the City of Asheville achieve:

1. Buncombe County's community-wide 100% renewable energy goal to be achieved by 2042 and their 100% renewable energy goal for municipal operations by 2030,
2. The City of Asheville's climate emergency response supporting the need for clean renewable energy for Asheville residents to develop a climate resilience strategy that will allow the City and community members to adapt and become more resilient to climate change,
3. The City of Asheville, Buncombe County and Duke Energy's partnership to transition the region to a cleaner, smart energy future rooted in community engagement and collaboration that is mutually beneficial to the community and Duke Energy.

As a partner of Buncombe County and Duke Energy Progress' commitments to Western North Carolina's Modernization Project, the City of Asheville asks that Duke Energy's commitment to the installation of renewable energy at DEP's existing Asheville Plant be approved.

Please contact us if you have any questions concerning this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Esther E. Manheimer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Esther" being more prominent than the last name "Manheimer".

Esther E. Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville