



# SIERRA CLUB

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FOUNDED 1892

May 3, 2023

RE: Docket No. E-2 Sub 1311

The Western NC Sierra Club Group is writing in support of the proposed CPCN for the Asheville Solar facility.

This 9.5 megawatts facility is a critical part of Duke's commitment to the Western Carolinas Modernization Plan. With this installation, Duke Energy will reach its commitment of 15 megawatts of solar within the DEP-West region of North Carolina. Additionally, this project is important for our community's renewable energy goals.

This solar facility will be the largest in Western North Carolina and helps our community advance its renewable energy goals, the state's clean energy goals, and Duke Energy's commitment to reduce carbon.

The location is optimal and uses a brownfield development on a former coal generation site; it is large enough to host a larger solar facility than typically sited and connected to distribution lines; the site has existing transmission infrastructure making it favorable to site solar; the site is not adjacent to residential uses; and does not require significant tree clearing to build the solar facility.

Buncombe County and the City of Asheville are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and this project is key to our area meeting our goals. It is also the type of project that needs to be built to help the state meet its carbon reduction goals.

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