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May 28 2020

March 14, 2020

Mr. Christopher J. Ayers  
Executive Director  
Public Staff  
NC Utilities Commission  
4326 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh NC 27699-4300

RE: Docket No. E-7, Sub 1214

Dear Mr. Ayers:

Whenever I receive a message from Duke Energy that's in small print, I always read it to see what new pain they are about to inflict on their customers.

I noticed in the enclosed brochure that you are empowered to gather and share consumer feedback on proposed rate increases. I very much appreciate the fact that this function is structured into the rate review process.

I would like to say, with respect to the rate proposal in question, that I hope it is rejected.

My wife and I have both retired within the past three years. We are for the first time in our married life confronting the challenges of living on fixed income. When Duke merged with Progress several years ago, the inherent promise of the merger was that efficiencies of scale would be so pronounced that rates would go lower, not higher. This has proven to be a false promise.

Duke Energy has monopoly powers. And they operate a public utility that is of life or death importance to every single customer. Abusing this monopoly power to gouge the public is something that government offices like yours can and should resist.

Again, my wife and I thank you for using your position to speak up on our behalf in proceedings of this nature.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Jones

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1223 Aylesford Road  
Charlotte NC 28211

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1214

In the Matter of  
Application of Duke Energy Carolinas,  
LLC, for Adjustment of  
Rates and Charges Applicable to  
Electric Service in North Carolina

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
OF HEARINGS ON  
RATE INCREASE  
APPLICATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 30, 2019, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC or Company), filed an application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission requesting authority to adjust and increase its rates for retail electric service in North Carolina effective on October 30, 2019. On October 29, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Establishing General Rate Case, Suspending Rates, Scheduling Hearings, and Requiring Public Notice.

In its application, DEC proposes to increase its rates and charges to produce an additional \$445.3 million in retail base revenues, which would result in an overall increase of approximately 9.2%. DEC further proposes to partially offset the increase in revenues by refunding \$154.6 million, related to certain tax benefits resulting from the Federal Tax Cut and Jobs Act, through a proposed rider. The net revenue increase with the rider is \$290.8 million, which represents an approximately overall 6.0% increase in annual revenues.

Additionally, the Company is seeking accounting orders related to ongoing costs for environmental compliance, storm costs, grid improvement investments, and employee severance costs.

The proposed rate increase is based on a test period ending December 31, 2018. DEC requests that new permanent base rates become effective no later than August 1, 2020.

In support of the requested rate increase, DEC states that its request is driven by investments made by the Company since its 2017 rate case in Docket No. E-7, Sub 1146, including: a) the further implementation of DEC's generation modernization program, which consists of retiring, replacing and upgrading generation plants; b) the Company's continued investments to modernize and maintain the Company's transmission and distribution systems; c) costs incurred to restore service to customers after hurricanes Florence and Michael and Winter Storm Diego; d) the deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure, which includes smart meters; e) investments needed to comply with environmental regulations related to coal combustion residuals, including ash basin closure activities necessary to satisfy federal and state regulatory requirements; f) depreciation rate changes from the most recent depreciation study, including efforts to further reduce the Company's reliance on coal by accelerating the expected remaining lives of some of the Company's coal-fired generation facilities for depreciation purposes, and g) other costs incurred by DEC to provide reliable, efficient and high quality power to North Carolina customers.

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