

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1288

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of	
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC,)
for a Certificate of Environmental)
Compatibility and Public Convenience and)
Necessity to Construct Approximately 1.3)
Miles of New 230 kV Transmission Line in)
Chatham County, North Carolina)
	ORDER CANCELING EXPERT WITNESS HEARING

BY THE CHAIR: On February 7, 2022, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP or Applicant) filed an application pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 62-100 et seq. and Commission Rules R1-5 and R8-62 for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct approximately 1.3 miles of new 230 kV transmission line in Chatham County, North Carolina. In summary, DEP's application describes the details of the transmission line and the benefits to be provided by the line. Further, the application is supported by prefiled testimony and a Routing Study and Environmental Report. In addition, the application describes in detail the preferred route for the transmission line. Finally, as required by N.C.G.S. § 62-102(c), the application included a proposed Public Notice that provides a summary of the application.

On February 21, 2022, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings and Requiring Public Notice (Scheduling Order). In the Scheduling Order, a public witness hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro Street, 2nd floor, Pittsboro, North Carolina for the purpose of receiving public witness testimony regarding DEP's application in accordance with Commission Rule R-21(g). The Scheduling Order also scheduled an expert witness hearing for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

On April 20, 2022, DEP filed Affidavits of Publication confirming that the Public Notice had been published for four successive weeks in Chatham County beginning on February 24, 2022.

On April 22, 2022, the State Clearinghouse of the North Carolina Department of Administration filed comments made in review of the environmental impact information received by the State Clearinghouse regarding the proposed transmission line and a letter stating that it has determined that no further review action is needed for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

On May 18, 2022, the Public Staff filed a letter in lieu of testimony in this proceeding stating that, based on its investigation of the application, exhibits, and other matters of record, the Public Staff believes that DEP has complied with the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 62-102 and has demonstrated as required by N.C.G.S. § 62-105 that: (1) the proposed transmission line is necessary; (2) when compared with reasonable alternative courses of action, construction of the line in the proposed location is reasonable; (3) the estimated costs associated with the line are reasonable; (4) the impact of the line on the environment is justified considering the state of available technology; and (5) the environmental compatibility, public convenience, and necessity require the transmission line. The Public Staff recommends that the Commission issue the requested CPCN. No other comments have been filed in docket and no other party has intervened.

On May 27, 2022, DEP filed a Motion to Cancel Hearings requesting that the Commission cancel both the public witness hearing and the expert witness hearing. DEP states that the Public Staff does not oppose the motion and notes that no significant protests have been received from any person. DEP requests that the Commission cancel both hearings, accept into evidence the application, testimony, and exhibits, and order DEP to file a proposed order on or before thirty days from the date of the Commission's order on DEP's motion.

On May 31, 2022, the Chair issued an Order Canceling Public Witness Hearing. That Order stated that a decision regarding the expert witness hearing would be issued later after further review and consideration.

Considering the foregoing and having conducted further review of the application and supporting testimony and the entire record in this proceeding, the Chair finds good cause to cancel the expert witness hearing, set for June 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. Further, the Applicant is ordered to file a proposed order on or before thirty days from the date of this Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 2nd day of June, 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erica N. Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erica N. Green, Deputy Clerk