

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1185

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for) ORDER CANCELING EXPERT
a Certificate of Public Convenience and) WITNESS HEARING AND RECEIVING
Necessity to Construct a Microgrid Solar and) EVIDENCE INTO RECORD
Battery Storage Facility in Madison County,)
North Carolina)

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On October 8, 2018, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP or Applicant) filed an application pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8- 61 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct the Hot Springs Microgrid Solar and Battery Storage Facility (Hot Springs Microgrid or Facility). DEP states that the Hot Springs Microgrid facility will consist of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels affixed to ground mount 20-degree fixed-tilt racking, solar inverters, a Microgrid controller and a battery energy storage system (BESS). The nominal generation capacity for the PV generator will be approximately 3 MW_{DC}/ 2 MW_{AC}. The nominal storage capacity for the battery will be approximately 4 MW. The useful life of the Facility is expected to be 25 years with anticipated replacement battery cells after year 10, depending on the degradation curves. The total projected cost of the project was filed by DEP under seal as a confidential trade secret. The application is supported by pre-filed testimony and exhibits.

On October 10, 2018, the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) filed a motion for intervention which was granted by the Chairman on October 16, 2018.

On October 31, 2018, the Chairman issued an order finding the application incomplete. On November 13, 2018, DEP filed supplemental testimony and exhibits.

On November 30, 2018, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearing, Requiring Testimony, Establishing Procedural Guidelines and Requiring Public Notice (Scheduling Order). The Scheduling Order, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on Wednesday, January 23, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Madison County Courthouse in Marshall, North Carolina, for the purpose of receiving testimony regarding the application, and required the Applicant to publish a Public Notice of the hearing in a newspaper having general circulation in Madison County once a week for four consecutive weeks. Further, the Scheduling Order provided that the Commission may cancel the public hearing if no significant protests regarding the proposed facility were filed.

On January 16, 2019, based on the lack of any significant protest, the Commission issued an Order canceling the public witness hearing that was scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in Marshall, North Carolina.

On January 17, 2019, DEP filed affidavits of publication confirming that the Public Notice was published in newspapers, as required by the Scheduling Order.

On January 30, 2019, the Public Staff filed the affidavit of Jeff Thomas. In summary, witness Thomas states that the Public Staff has investigated DEP's application and recommends that the Commission issue the CPCN to DEP for construction of the microgrid facility with certain conditions.

On February 7, 2019, DEP, the Public Staff and NCSEA filed a Joint Motion to Cancel Hearing and to Excuse Witnesses from Appearance at Hearing (Joint Motion). In summary, the parties state that a number of statements of consumer support have been filed in this docket, and no protests have been filed. Further, the parties note that DEP and the Public Staff have discussed the proposed conditions proposed by the Public Staff, and that DEP has agreed to such recommended conditions as set forth in Confidential Attachment A, "Reporting, Study, Cap and Other Conditions Agreed to by the Parties." The parties indicate that counsel for all parties have agreed to waive-cross-examination of all witnesses and consent to the introduction of the application and the parties' testimony and exhibits into the record without the appearance of such witnesses.

Based on the foregoing and the record, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to cancel the expert witness hearing scheduled for February 25, 2019, and to receive into evidence the application, the testimony and exhibits filed by DEP, the affidavit of Public Staff witness Thomas, the Confidential Attachment A, "Reporting, Study, Cap and Other Conditions Agreed to by the Parties," of the parties' February 7, 2019 Joint Motion, and the Clearinghouse comments of the Department of Administration. The Presiding Commissioner also finds good cause to order DEP to file a proposed order on or before March 29, 2019, and to allow other parties to file proposed orders by the same date.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

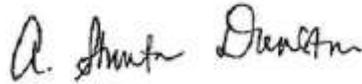
1. That the expert witness hearing in this docket scheduled for February 25, 2019, shall be, and is hereby, canceled.
2. That the application, testimony and exhibits filed by DEP, the affidavit of Public Staff witness Thomas, the Confidential Attachment A, "Reporting, Study, Cap and Other Conditions Agreed to by the Parties," of the parties' February 7, 2019 Joint Motion, and the Clearinghouse comments of the Department of Administration, shall be, and are hereby, received into evidence.

3. That on or before March 29, 2019, DEP shall file a proposed order, and the other parties may file proposed orders by the same date.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 19th day of February, 2019.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shonta Dunston". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

A. Shonta Dunston, Deputy Clerk