

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1150

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 11.5 Miles of New)
230-kV Transmission Line in Johnston County,)
North Carolina)

ORDER EXTENDING TIME
PERIOD FOR FINAL DECISION

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On July 14, 2017, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), filed an application in the above-captioned docket to obtain a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to construct approximately 11.5 miles of new 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Johnston and Wake Counties, North Carolina.

On July 18, 2017, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Requiring Filing of Testimony, Establishing Discovery Guidelines and Requiring Public Notice.

On October 16, 2017, the Public Staff filed a letter recommending that the Commission grant DEP's application so long as, among other things, the Commission has received a letter from the State Environmental Review Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) stating that no further review action by the Commission is required for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

On October 30, 2017, the Commission held a public hearing in Smithfield, North Carolina. On October 31, 2017, the Commission held an expert witness hearing in Raleigh, North Carolina.

On November 8, 2017, the Clearinghouse filed a letter requesting that DEP provide the Clearinghouse supplemental documentation and information requested by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), including the results of an archaeological survey to be conducted by an experienced archaeologist and an aquatic species survey to be conducted at the proposed transmission line's Middle Creek crossing location.

On November 13, 2017, the Commission ordered DEP to provide updated information regarding, among other things, the status of DEP's completion of the surveys requested by DNCR. On November 14, 2017, DEP filed verified responses to the

Commission's Order, stating that DEP will complete, but had not yet begun, the requested surveys.

As of the date of this Order, the Commission has not received confirmation from the Clearinghouse that the surveys requested by DNCR have been completed, or final notice that no further review action by the Commission is required for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

The Presiding Commissioner is mindful of the Commission's obligation pursuant to G.S. 62-104(c) to issue orders regarding transmission line CPCNs within 60 days of the conclusion of the hearing. On the other hand, the Presiding Commissioner agrees with the Public Staff that in order to ensure compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act, it is necessary to receive and review final comments from the Clearinghouse.

Therefore, after careful consideration of the foregoing and the entire record, the Presiding Commissioner finds substantial cause pursuant to G.S. 62-104(c) to extend the deadline for the Commission to issue its final decision in this proceeding until thirty (30) days following the date upon which the Commission receives confirmation from the Clearinghouse that no further review action by the Commission is required for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 8th day of January, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linnetta Threatt".

Linnetta Threatt, Deputy Clerk