

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 101

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Petition for Approval of Revisions to)	ORDER SEEKING COMMENTS
Generator Interconnection Standards)	REGARDING GENERATOR
)	INSPECTION PROVISIONS OF
)	THE NORTH CAROLINA
)	GENERATOR
)	INTERCONNECTION
)	STANDARDS

BY THE CHAIR: On March 1, 2021, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (jointly, Duke), filed a report on its Interconnection Fee-Related Work and Post-Commercial Operation Inspections for 2020, (2020 Inspection Report), which provides the Commission with an update on the status of Duke’s work on an inspection program.

On June 14, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Approving Revised Interconnection Standard and Requiring Reports and Testimony (2019 NCIP Order) which, in part, established certain requirements related to post-commercial operation inspections of interconnected facilities. The 2019 NCIP Order approved the addition of Sections 6.5.2, 6.5.3 and 6.5.4 to the NCIP, which authorize Duke to inspect the medium voltage AC side of both new and operating facilities and to invoice the applicable Interconnection Customer for the costs of the inspection. Duke states in its 2020 Inspection Report that the inspection rights established in Section 6.5.2 specifically address facilities that were interconnected prior to the point in time at which Duke implemented an inspection program and therefore were not inspected prior to parallel operation (the Uninspected Facilities). Duke reports that there are approximately 300 utility-scale Uninspected Facilities interconnected to the Duke systems and that all of the Uninspected Facilities are parties to Interconnection Agreements dated prior to June 14, 2019.

Duke notes in the 2020 Inspection Report that it has been collaborating with stakeholders on developing a pilot program for the self-inspection of the remaining Uninspected Facilities. Duke further states that the self-inspection approach would enable the Companies to have inspections conducted on the hundreds of remaining Uninspected Facilities in a timelier manner and potentially at a lower-cost than a Company-led inspection. However, Duke reports that stakeholders have raised concerns and questions as to whether Duke has the right to require inspection of the Uninspected Facilities pursuant to the 2019 NCIP Order.

In its 2020 Inspection Report, Duke states that it intends to continue to engage with stakeholders in the hope of expeditiously resolving the issue in a collaborative fashion and that, if no resolution is achieved, Duke will likely need to petition the Commission for clarification of its 2019 NCIP Order. Further, Duke states that it will proceed with the self-inspection pilot program for the three projects that have volunteered but, once such pilots are completed, Duke will not be able to conduct any further inspections of Uninspected Facilities.

The Chair commends the collaboration of the parties to develop an efficient process for the inspection of facilities interconnected to the grid. However, given the issue raised by Duke in the 2020 Inspection Report and in the interest of ensuring the safety and integrity of the grid, the Chair finds good cause to seek comments from the parties as to their concerns regarding the inspection of the Uninspected Facilities.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That parties may file comments on these issues by March 19, 2021; and
2. That parties may file reply comments on or before March 31, 2021.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 9th day of March, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberley A. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk