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January 10, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. A. Shonta Dunston
Chief Clerk
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

**RE: Planned Stakeholder Engagement and Procedural Plans for
Potential Commission-Directed 2022 Solar Procurement
Docket No. E-100, Sub 179**

Dear Ms. Dunston:

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (“DEC”) and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (“DEP” and together with DEC, the “Companies”) hereby provide notice to the North Carolina Utilities Commission (“Commission”) and interested stakeholders regarding the Companies’ upcoming plans to engage with stakeholders on the potential 2022 solar procurement process as contemplated by Part I, Section 2.(c) of Session Law 2021-165 (“HB 951”).

Section 2.(c) of HB 951 authorizes the Commission to direct the Companies to procure solar energy facilities in 2022 “if, after stakeholder participation and review of preliminary analysis developed in preparation of the initial Carbon Plan, the Commission finds that such solar energy facilities will be needed in accordance with the criteria and requirements set forth in Section 1 of [HB 951] to achieve the authorized carbon reduction goals.” However, Section 2.(c) does not specify the procedural details regarding such process. Based on the need to align any 2022 solar procurement with the 2022 Definitive Interconnection System Impact Study (“DISIS”) Cluster Study enrollment window,¹ the Companies believe it is necessary and consistent with the intent of HB 951 and the Commission’s orders to engage with stakeholders on the 2022 solar procurement in advance of filing the full Carbon Plan with the Commission on May 16, 2022.

¹ The 2022 DISIS Cluster enrollment window closes June 29, 2022 and the Phase 1 study work begins on August 29, 2022.

Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Commission, the Companies intend to engage stakeholders for feedback and develop the preliminary analysis contemplated by Section 2.(c), targeting a subsequent filing with the Commission in early March 2022. The Companies currently plan to hold two 2022 solar procurement-specific virtual stakeholder meetings in the coming weeks through which to seek input from both North Carolina and South Carolina stakeholders and market participants.² The first 2022 solar procurement stakeholder meeting is targeted for Thursday, January 20, 2022, and the second stakeholder meeting will be held in early February. Additional meetings and stakeholder engagement will be scheduled as necessary.

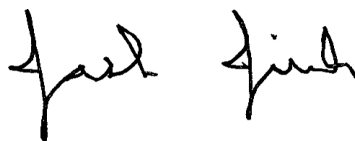
Following the stakeholder engagement process, the Companies plan to submit preliminary analysis to the Commission for review in determining whether to direct the procurement of solar facilities in 2022. The Companies' analysis will be developed consistent with the Companies' current system-wide integrated resource planning and procurement process, and the 2022 solar procurement framework will be developed to procure the most cost-effective solar facilities consistent with HB 951.

If the Companies' preliminary analysis supports the need for a 2022 solar procurement, the Companies' filing will also propose details regarding the 2022 solar procurement framework and will request a Commission order authorizing the 2022 solar procurement within sixty (60) days of the Companies' filing. Such expedited approval of a 2022 solar procurement process in advance of the Commission's review of the full Carbon Plan will be necessary for bidders to prepare for and the Companies to finalize the request for proposal process and to allow a reasonable bidding window that aligns with the annual DISIS Cluster Study timeline.

The Companies look forward to engaging with both North Carolina and South Carolina stakeholders on these and other important issues. Market participants and other stakeholders interested in participating in the Companies' upcoming 2022 solar procurement stakeholder process should contact the Companies at 2022SolarRFP@duke-energy.com to receive future communications about the upcoming stakeholder process.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jack E. Jirak

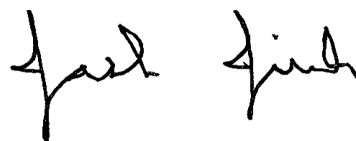
cc: Parties of Record

² The 2022 solar procurement-specific stakeholder meetings are in addition to the Commission-directed stakeholder engagement to be held pursuant to Order Paragraph 4 of the Commission's *Order Requiring Filing of Carbon Plan and Establishing Procedural Deadlines*.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC's Planned Stakeholder Engagement and Procedural Plans for Potential Commission-Directed 2022 Solar Procurement, in Docket No. E-100, Sub 179, has been served by electronic mail, hand delivery or by depositing a copy in the United States mail, postage prepaid, to parties of record.

This the 10th day of January, 2022.



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