

Fulmore, Janice

From: smtprelay
Sent: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 10:13 AM
To: Statements
Subject: Statement of Position Submitted by Western NC Sierra Club Group

Statement of Position Submitted

Name

Western NC Sierra Club Group

Email

judymattox@sbcglobal.net

Docket

E-2, Sub 1185.

Message

The Western NC Sierra Club Group is writing to support Duke Energy's request for the Hot Springs Microgrid project which will consist of a 3-megawatt (DC) solar facility and a 4-megawatt lithium-based battery storage facility. This microgrid will optimize solar production while also providing a safe, cost-effective and reliable grid solution for serving the Hot Springs area and surrounding DEP customers. The project will defer ongoing maintenance of an existing distribution power line that serves the remote town. The Hot Springs project is a part of Duke Energy's Western Carolinas' Modernization Project, which involves on-going conversations with community partners to help advance a cleaner energy future for the region. It includes closing a half-century-old, coal-fired power plant in Asheville in 2019. The plant will be partially replaced with distributed energy resources like solar power and battery storage. • As the grid operator, Duke Energy can maximize the versatility of storage beyond storing and dispatching of energy to include other customer and system benefits such as system balancing and deferral of traditional grid upgrades. • In the company's recent Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), Duke Energy outlined plans to deploy \$500 million in battery storage projects in the Carolinas over the next 15 years – equal to about 300 megawatts of capacity. Combining battery storage from all utilities, North Carolina has only about 15 megawatts of battery storage capacity in operation, and far less in South Carolina. This Hot Springs Project is a first step in what we hope will be even more solar and battery storage than the IRP envisions in NC. Judy Mattox - Chair of the Western NC Sierra Club Group

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