BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
2020 Biennial Integrated Resource Plan
Reports and Related 2020 REPS
Compliance Plans

ORDER SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING ON 2020 BIENNIAL IRP REPORTS AND RELATED 2020 REPS COMPLIANCE PLANS

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: The integrated resource planning (IRP) process is intended to identify those electric resource options that can be obtained at least cost to the ratepayers consistent with adequate, reliable electric service. IRP considers conservation, efficiency and load management, as well as supply-side alternatives, in the selection of resource options.

Commission Rule R8-60 defines an overall framework within which the IRP process takes place in North Carolina. Analysis of the long-range need for future electric generating capacity pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 is included in the Rule as a part of the IRP process.

INTRODUCTION

Several General Statutes and Commission Rules guide the Commission’s review of the electric utilities’ planning process. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1(c) the Commission is required to “develop, publicize, and keep current an analysis of the long-range needs” for electricity in this State. The Commission’s analysis should include: (1) its estimate of the probable future growth of the use of electricity; (2) the probable needed generating reserves; (3) the extent, size, mix, and general location of generating plants; and (4) arrangements for pooling power to the extent not regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Further, N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 requires the Commission to consider this analysis in acting upon any petition for construction. In addition, the statute requires the Commission to submit annually to the Governor and to the appropriate committees of the General Assembly the following: (1) a report of the Commission’s analysis and plan for the future requirements of electricity for North Carolina; (2) the progress to date in carrying out such plan; and (3) the program of the Commission for the ensuing year in connection with such plan. Moreover, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-15(d) requires the Public Staff-North Carolina Utilities Commission (Public Staff) to assist the Commission in this analysis and plan.

In addition, N.C.G.S § 62-2(a)(3a) vests the Commission with the duty to regulate public utilities and their expansion in relation to long-term energy conservation and management policies. These policies include assuring that "resources necessary to meet
future growth through the provision of adequate, reliable utility service include use of the entire spectrum of demand-side options, including but not limited to conservation, load management and efficiency programs, as additional sources of energy supply and/or energy demand reductions.”

To meet the requirements of N.C.G.S §§ 62-110.1 and 62-2(a)(3a), the Commission conducts an annual investigation into the electric utilities’ IRP. Commission Rule R8-60 requires that each of the electric utilities furnish the Commission with a biennial report in even-numbered years that contains the specific information set out in that Commission Rule. In odd-numbered years, each of the electric utilities must file an update report updating its most recently filed biennial report. Further, Commission Rule R8-67(b) requires any electric power supplier subject to Rule R8-60 to file a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard compliance plan (REPS compliance plan) as part of its IRP report.

2020 REPORTS

The required 2020 biennial integrated resource plan reports have been filed by Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP); Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC); and Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (DENC). In addition, 2020 REPS compliance plans were also filed by DEP, DEC and DENC.

PUBLIC HEARING

Commission Rule R8-60(k) requires the Commission to hold a public hearing in this docket solely for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony regarding the filed IRP reports and REPS compliance plans. The Commission will convene this public witness hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That a night hearing for the convenience of public witnesses and solely for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony with respect to the 2020 IRP reports and 2020 REPS compliance plans filed in this docket shall be held by the Commission on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.;

2. That this hearing shall be conducted remotely via Webex. A link to view the hearing will be available at www.ncuc.net. Members of the public desiring to testify must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021, by contacting the Public Staff via email at IRPPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov or by calling 866-380-9816. Testimony will be limited to five minutes per individual.

Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021, will be allowed to testify at the hearing.
3. That DEP, DEC and DENC shall publish the Notice of Public Hearing, attached hereto as Appendix A, in newspapers having general coverage in their respective North Carolina service areas once a week for two consecutive weeks, beginning with the week of February 15, 2021; that said notice shall cover no less than 1/6 of a page; and that each company shall file its respective proof of publication with the Commission no later than the date of the public hearing.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 2nd day of February, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

[Signature]
Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in conjunction with the Commission’s review and evaluation of integrated resource planning (IRP) in North Carolina. The purpose of the review and evaluation is to ensure that each regulated electric utility operating in North Carolina is developing reliable projections of the long-range demands for electricity in its service area and is developing a combination of reliable resource options for meeting the anticipated demands in a cost-effective manner. IRP is intended to identify those electric resource options which can be obtained at least cost to ratepayers in North Carolina consistent with adequate, reliable electric service. IRP considers conservation, efficiency, load management and other demand-side program alternatives in the selection of resource options. Commission Rule R8-60 requires that each of the electric utilities furnish the Commission with a biennial report in even-numbered years that contains the specific information set out in that Commission Rule. In odd-numbered years, each of the electric utilities must file an update report updating its most recently filed biennial report. In addition, regulated electric utilities are required to include their plans for meeting customer electric needs via renewable energy resources and energy efficiency programs by submitting a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard compliance plan (REPS compliance plan) as part of the IRP filing.

During the public hearing to be held in this docket, the Commission will receive testimony from nonexpert public witnesses with respect to the most current IRP reports and REPS compliance plans filed in 2020 by Duke Energy Progress, LLC; Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; and Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina. Public witness testimony will be received in accordance with Commission Rule R1-21(g).

A night hearing for the convenience of public witnesses and solely for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony shall be held by the Commission on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. The hearing shall be conducted remotely via Webex. A link to view the hearing will be available at www.ncuc.net.
Persons desiring to present testimony for the record must register in advance of the hearing, no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 11, 2021 by contacting the Public Staff via email at IRPPublicHearing@psncuc.nc.gov or by calling 866-380-9816. Testimony will be limited to five minutes per individual.

**Only individuals registered with the Public Staff by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021, will be allowed to testify at the hearing.**

Anyone wishing to review the 2020 IRP reports and REPS compliance plans filed by the utilities may do so at the Commission’s website, www.ncuc.net, by selecting the Docket tab and entering Docket No. E-100 Sub 165. Upon request, the Chief Clerk will place copies of the IRPs, compliance plans and any other documents filed in this proceeding in centrally-located public libraries where they may be copied without prohibition. Such a request may be made by writing to the Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300, and providing the name and address of the library to which the information is to be mailed.

Persons desiring to send written statements to inform the Commission of their positions in the matter shall address their statements to Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

The Public Staff is authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information that the writers wish to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter. Such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-9001. Written statements may be emailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

**ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.**

This the 2nd day of February, 2021.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk

NOTE TO PRINTER: Advertising cost shall be paid by the Applicant. It is required that the Affidavit of Publication be filed with the Commission by the Applicant.