

October 17, 2012

Ms. Gail Mount, Chief Clerk  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
4325 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4325

Re: Progress Energy Rate Hearings (Docket E-2 Sub 1023)  
Re: Duke Energy Rate Hearings (Docket E-7 - anticipated)

Dear Ms. Mount:

We are writing you on behalf of the thousands of North Carolina members and Duke Energy ratepayers of our organizations interested in the upcoming Duke Energy rate hearings. Our members will be directly impacted by the outcome of the potential rate increases, as will all Duke Energy Carolinas and Progress Energy Carolinas customers throughout the state. In order to give customers of these utilities ample opportunity to testify and participate we have a few specific requests of the upcoming public hearing process:

1. The upcoming public rate hike hearings are held in 9 locations across the state so as to allow geographic diversity for public input. We request that high density regions respective of each rate base have individual hearings to accommodate the thousands of concerned ratepayers in and around these municipalities. These should include Asheville, Fayetteville, Pittsboro, Wilmington, Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem.
2. At the 2011 rate hike hearings, dozens of concerned residents were turned away because there was a lack of seating. To accommodate hundreds of people at each hearing, we request that each hearing space be large enough and overflow space made available should the crowd eclipse capacity.
3. We request that the hearings are translated into regionally important languages, especially Spanish. The Latino community is the largest growing in our state, and language access should not be a barrier to participation for any of our neighbors.
4. Upon request, providing ASL interpreter services or other accommodation to make sure that all people have access to the proceedings regardless of any disability that they may have.
5. Similar to how the high interest hearings from this summer were streamed live, we ask that all of the hearings are streamed live for concerned residents from across the state unable to attend in person.
6. We request that all of the hearings be in the evening to provide opportunity for working people to attend and provide input.

Thank for you taking the time to consider these requests. Hundreds of thousands of North Carolina families do not have a choice of their energy supplier. What we have is the

opportunity to hold our utility accountable to our interests through proceedings like the upcoming rate hike hearings.

As the agency charged with regulating rates throughout the state, we look to you to protect the interest of the public and ensure reasonable rates. To that end, ensuring equal and ample access for all North Carolinians is our goal.

The organizations signed believe collectively that taking these steps will give the hearings integrity they will lack otherwise. We look forward to hearing back from you by Friday, October 26, 2012, and will follow up as appropriate.

Sincerely,

350 Asheville  
350 Boone  
350 Winston-Salem  
Action NC  
Appalachian Voices  
Canary Coalition  
Catawba Riverkeeper® Foundation, Inc.  
Clean Air Carolina  
Clean Water for North Carolina  
Democracy North Carolina  
Disability Rights North Carolina  
Dogwood Alliance  
Environmentalists Inc.  
Green Grannies  
Greenpeace USA  
Haw River Assembly  
NC WARN  
North Carolina Housing Coalition  
North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light  
North Carolina Justice Center  
North Carolina League of Conservation Voters  
Occupy Charlotte Environmental Working Group  
Occupy Greensboro Energy Working Group  
Proposition One Campaign  
SAFE Carolinas  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
State Employees Association of North Carolina  
Waterkeepers Carolina  
We Love Mountain Island Lake  
Western NC Alliance