

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

Re: E-7, Sub 909, Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, for an Increase in and Revisions to its Rates and Charges Applicable to Electric Utility Service in North Carolina

Commissioners:

On behalf of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, I am commenting on Duke Energy's request for authority to increase the rates charged to the 1.8 million customers in their service area. We oppose the increase. Much of this rate increase is targeted for the construction of Unit 6 at their Cliffside plant.

The League submitted comments on the Cliffside expansion to the Public Staff in August of 2006 expressing our concerns about the increased emissions of dioxins, heavy metals, other toxic air pollutants, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Our concerns are still valid and a copy of our comments is included here.

We would like to highlight one pollutant in particular-carbon dioxide. Since 2006 we have seen a growing awareness of the devastating impacts of global warming. The Union of Concerned Scientists finds coal responsible for one third of the nation's carbon emissions making it the largest single source.¹ Coal combustion from Cliffside would add 6 million tons of carbon to the atmosphere every year and potentially for the next fifty years. This comes at a time when many countries are committing themselves to reducing power from coal. North Carolina is not immune to the consequences of a hot climate and it should be obvious that constructing another coal burner is not a solution to the climate crisis.

Duke Energy, like the other utilities, is trying to define its future role in a carbon-poisoned climate. It is hard to imagine a place for coal in that future as North Carolina moves away from carbon-based fossil fuels. Duke's dependency on coal for cheap

¹ *Climate 2030 Blueprint*, Union of Concerned Scientists, (2009) p.57.

EIA2008d citation: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Emissions of greenhouse gases in the United States 2007. DOE/EIA0573(2007). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Energy. Online at: <http://ftp.eia.doe.gov/pub/oiaf/1605/cdrom/pdf/ggrpt/057307.pdf>.

electricity ignored the full impacts to public health and the environment for decades. With the Cliffside rate hike, they are ignoring the consequences of global warming.

Raising rates to pay for coal when we have the opportunity for conservation, efficiency and clean renewable energy is not in the public interest. We urge the Commission to reject the Duke Energy rate increase and revoke the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Cliffside Unit #6.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

David Mickey
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League