

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1101

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC,) ORDER ACCEPTING TESTIMONY,
for a Certificate of Public Convenience and) CANCELLING EVIDENTIARY
Necessity to Construct a 6-MW Solar) HEARING AND REQUIRING
Facility in Rowan County, North Carolina) PROPOSED ORDERS

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On March 3, 2016, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC) filed an application pursuant to G.S. 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-61 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct a 6-MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility to be located on an 116 acre parcel owned by DEC in Rowan County, North Carolina.

On March 31, 2016, the Commission issued an Order Scheduling Hearings, Requiring Filing of Testimony, Establishing Procedural Guidelines and Requiring Public Notice (Scheduling Order). The Scheduling Order, among other things, scheduled a public witness hearing to be held in Salisbury, North Carolina, on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., scheduled an evidentiary hearing to be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Monday, May 16, 2016, at 2:00 p.m., and required DEC to publish a public notice regarding its application and the public witness hearing.

On April 18, 2016, DEC filed direct testimony of James S. Northrup in support of DEC's application.

On May 10, 2016, the Public Staff filed affidavits of Darlene P. Peedin, Staff Accountant, Accounting Division, and David M. Williamson, Utilities Engineer, Utilities Division. In summary, witness Peedin recommended that the Commission approve DEC's application subject to certain conditions related to avoided costs, the recovery of costs through DEC's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) annual rider as opposed to base rates, and the realization of certain tax benefits as more fully described in her affidavit and the Public Staff's comments filed on May 3, 2016, in Docket No. E-7, Subs 1079 and 1098. Witness Williamson likewise recommended approval of the application subject to the conditions: (1) that the facility be constructed in strict accordance with applicable laws and regulations, including environmental requirements; (2) that no construction commence until the State Clearinghouse filed their comments; and (3) that DEC provide a copy of the engineering, procurement, and construction contract to the public Staff once it had been finalized.

On May 11, 2016, the Clearinghouse Coordinator of the Office of Policy and Planning of the Department of Administration filed final comments with the Commission stating that because of the nature of the comments no further review is needed by the Commission to determine compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

On May 11, 2016, the public witness hearing was held in Salisbury, North Carolina as scheduled. No public witnesses provided testimony in opposition to the application.

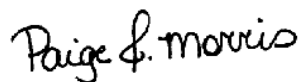
On May 12, 2016, DEC filed a Motion to Cancel Hearing. In summary, DEC states that DEC and the Public Staff are the only parties to this docket, there does not appear to be a need to have the parties' witnesses present further testimony, the parties are preparing a joint proposed order to be filed with the Commission, and the Public Staff joins DEC in its motion to cancel the evidentiary hearing scheduled for May 16, 2016.

Based on the foregoing and the record, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to cancel the evidentiary hearing scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2016. Further, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to accept into the record DEC's application, the direct testimony and exhibits filed by DEC witness Northrup, and the affidavits of Public Staff witnesses Peedin and Williamson. Finally, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to direct that DEC and the Public Staff shall file proposed orders, or a joint proposed order, on or before Friday, June 10, 2016.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13th day of May, 2016.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



Paige J. Morris, Deputy Clerk