

# Don't Bill Us For Duke Energy's Mistakes

---

## No rate hikes for dirty energy.

### How to Speak out

---

The NC Utilities Commission is holding a series of public hearings and asking community members to give testimony at the events. It is important to make your comments your own. You can share how this rate increase could impact your life or the lives of other community members, especially if this bill increase will impact your budget. The talking points below can also be used to help inform your comments; however, you do not need to be an expert to weigh in. It's important that the NC Utilities Commission hears from North Carolina residents.

If you can't attend a public hearing, you can submit your own comments by email to [statements@ncuc.net](mailto:statements@ncuc.net). If you need assistance with submitting comments please reach out and we would be happy to walk you through the process. You'll need to be sure to include **Docket NO. E-2, SUB 1219** in the subject line.



## North Carolina's families and small businesses can't afford Duke Energy's proposal.

---

- Duke Energy Progress (DEP) is seeking approval from the North Carolina Utilities Commission for a **\$463.6 million increase** in the amount they can collect from its ratepayers each year. This would result in energy bills that are on average **12.3% higher** for Duke Energy Progress' residential customers in North Carolina.
- If approved, residential electric rates will rise by about **\$17.26 per month** for a typical customer.
- Many North Carolina residents can't afford higher energy bills. Bill increases place an unfair burden on older residents on fixed incomes, community members who are already struggling to make ends meet, and small businesses.
- Duke Energy is the largest public utility corporation in the United States. They have spent 23 years on the fortune 500 list. They can afford to pay for their own bad business practices.

## Don't give Duke Energy \$2.3 billion for promises rather than performance.

---

- Historically, a utility must show an investment is "used and useful" before billing it to ratepayers. In this rate case, Duke Energy is trying to get what the legislature refused to give them in 2019-money for projects it has not built yet.
- Duke Energy wants big money and little transparency. Duke is asking the Utilities Commission for an increase in cash flow to fund unspecified projects, with assurances that the company will fill in the details later.
- Duke seeks an unprecedented advance payment of over \$2.3 billion to pay for grid investments that the Utilities Commission previously rejected in the 2018 rate case.
- Duke doesn't explain how their multi-billion dollar grid investment will save ratepayers money or speed up clean energy adoption.
- Duke's grid investment plan ignores public input that big investments should support clean energy, not more dirty fossil gas and coal.

## We shouldn't pay for Duke Energy's coal ash mistakes.

- Duke Energy is being held responsible for cleaning up their coal ash mess, but North Carolina residents shouldn't foot the bill for their mistakes.
- With the news that Duke Energy is finally having to clean up their coal ash sites. It is crucial that Duke Energy cleanup their coal ash, even though the cost of that cleanup could grow into the billions. We need to set the precedent now that Duke pay for their own mistakes.
- Duke Energy's own insurers are refusing to cover costs associated with Duke's coal ash liabilities "because Duke failed to take reasonable measures to avoid and/or mitigate" the damages resulting from coal ash disposal.
- Duke Energy is the country's largest utility and their shareholders can afford to pay for the company's mistakes as well as benefit from their profits. They don't need a bailout from North Carolina residents.

## Retire fossil fuel plants. Don't force ratepayers to pay more for dirty energy.

- The cheapest energy solution is switching from coal to renewables, not coal to fossil gas.
- Rather than paying for dirty fossil fuels like coal and gas, Duke Energy should be investing in a clean energy future.
- Duke seeks recovery from ratepayers for capital investments at coal plants **totaling \$402 million**. Rather than investing millions in outdated, dirty coal plants, Duke should invest in cheaper renewables and storage.
- Duke's requested increase also includes the new \$820 million Asheville gas plant. Investing in fossil gas will prevent North Carolina from achieving our clean energy targets.



## Hearing Information

Duke Energy Progress - DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1219

CITY	DATE	LOCATION
Asheville, NC Buncombe County	Thursday, February 20 7:00 p.m.	Buncombe County Courthouse Courtroom 1A 60 Court Plaza
Rockingham, NC Richmond County	Thursday, February 27 7:00 p.m.	Richmond County Judicial Center Jury Assembly Room, 3rd Floor 105 West Franklin Street
Raleigh, NC Wake County	Monday, March 2 7:00 p.m.	Commission Hearing Room 2115 Dobbs Building 430 North Salisbury Street
Wilmington, NC New Hanover County	Tuesday, March 3 7:00 p.m.	New Hanover County Courthouse Courtroom 317 316 Princess Street
Snow Hill, NC Greene County	Wednesday, March 4 7:00 p.m.	Greene County Courthouse 301 N Greene Street
Raleigh, NC Wake County Evidentiary Meeting	Monday, May 4 2:00 p.m.	Commission Hearing Room 2115 Dobbs Building 430 North Salisbury Street