

Duke Energy Wants Consumers To Take a (Rate) Hike!

Tell the North Carolina Utilities Commission To Deny Duke Energy's 17% Rate Hike

- ✓ Duke Energy's request to raise its allowed rate of return on shareholder equity from 10.7 percent to 11.5 percent is excessive and unwarranted.
- ✓ The cumulative impact of these price hikes would unfairly impact middle and low income rate payers, senior citizens, and other individuals on fixed incomes, most who have seen their incomes and purchasing power fall during this same time period.
- ✓ Duke Energy had record profits of \$1.3 billion in 2010 – a 23% increase. In addition, Duke Energy CEO Jim Rogers had a compensation package totaling \$6.9 million, a 25% increase. This financial performance suggests that Duke Energy is well positioned to achieve an acceptable return on investment and deliver shareholder value.
- ✓ Instead of a cost increase to support old polluting technologies, we need to focus on cost savings from inexpensive and job-creating energy efficiency that could save families money, lead to cleaner air and water, and promote a green energy economy in North Carolina.
- ✓ The Cliffside plant expansion is not needed to meet North Carolina's demand, which has been declining, not increasing, over the past several years. Duke Energy is expanding its service area outside of North Carolina to sell more energy and increase its profits. But, North Carolina ratepayers are being forced to pay for Duke's risky investments.
- ✓ The North Carolina Utilities Commission has a responsibility to "provide fair regulation of public utilities in the interest of the public." It serves the public interest to establish policies that will result in further reductions in energy consumption, rather than an ever-increasing cycle of more energy consumption followed by the construction of new, heavily polluting power plants.
- ✓ In at least seven other states, utility rates have been restructured to allow consumers to make choices that will save them money each month and greatly reduce energy consumption. The Utilities Commission already has the authority to implement this type of inverted rate structure program.

Documentation related to the rate increase can be found on the North Carolina Utilities Commission website: <http://www.ncuc.net/>, Docket No. E-7, Sub 989

Written comments may be sent to the Utilities Commission through October 24, 2011 addressed to:

Mr. Robert P. Gruber
Executive Director
Public Staff-NCUC
4326 Mail Service Center
Dobbs Building
Raleigh, NC 27699-4326

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