

Docket No. E-2 Sub 1300

Duke Energy Progress (DEP) sent a letter to its customers describing proposed rate increases. Page 1 of the letter I received contains a heading “Public Hearings.” Two sentences above that DEP states that it is also proposing new programs, including “a customer assistance program for low-income customers.”

One obvious way to benefit low-income customers is not to impose a 20% rate increase, 11.2% in the first year.

The North Carolina Council of Churches (NCCC) urges the NCUC to ask DEP:

1. To divide the Residential Rate Class into Residential – Low income and Residential – General. The NCCC proposes that this serve as a permanent new structure for the Residential class. Note that General Service is in three rate classes.
2. To propose a rate increase for Residential – Low income of 25% of the increase now proposed. This change in rate increase is proposed for this docket only.

The NCCC notes that some or all of the revenue lost due to a lower rate increase for Residential – Low Income might come from not incurring costs to design, publicize, and manage a new program.

The NCCC thanks the NCUC for including this comment/proposal in the deliberations on Docket No. E-2 Sub 1300.

Respectfully,

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland,
Executive Director NCCC