

Person County Files Comments NC Utilities Commission – Seeking to Keep Electric Generating Plants in Person County

July 18, 2022 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Person County filed comments at the NC Utilities Commission on Friday, asking that Duke Energy continue to operate electric generating units in the county. Duke currently operates units in Person County at the Mayo and Roxboro power plants.

Duke Energy filed the Carbon Plan as required by legislation passed last year by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper. The law, known as House Bill 951, requires Duke Energy to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions from North Carolina power plants by 70% in 2030 and to achieve “carbon neutrality” by 2050. The Duke Carbon Plan, as filed, would have the Mayo Plant close as early as 2029 and Roxboro Plant close sometime between 2029 and 2034.

“These aggressive environmental goals put Mayo and Roxboro in the cross-hairs,” said Gordon Powell, Chair of the Person County Board of Commissioners. “The Person County Board of Commissioners was unanimous in its decision to get involved and speak up for our community’s future. We believe it is in the best interest of the State of North Carolina to see electric generation units, whether they be coal or natural gas, continue to operate in Person County for many years into the future.”

The County’s comments filed at the NC Utilities Commission reflect those goals, asking the NC Utilities Commission to keep consumer rates low by recognizing the large amount of electric transmission located in the County such that current and additional generation continue to be operated in Person County.

“Those power plants are the life-blood of our community,” Chairman Powell stated. “We have generations of folks in Person County who worked at the plants or supported the plant operations. This is a decades long partnership; Person County keeps the lights on for Duke’s customers all over the state.”

In addition to keeping electric generation units operating in Person County, the County suggested in its comments that Duke Energy should maintain a corporate presence in Person County and provide support for the community during any transition period.

The comments filed earlier this week are just one part of the Carbon Plan process. On Monday, the Utilities Commission held a public hearing in Durham where Phillip Allen,

Chair of Person County's Economic Development Commission, and Claudia Berryhill, Chair of the County's Tourism Development Authority spoke.

"Don't turn the lights out on Person County," Mr. Allen told the Utilities Commissioners.

The Utilities Commission has until December 31, 2022, to make its decision on the carbon plan.

Person County has a population of approximately 39,259 and a median household income of approximately \$43,381. The North Carolina Department of Commerce designates Person County as a Tier 2, or moderately distressed county, based upon the average unemployment rate, median household income, percentage growth in population, and adjusted property tax base. Duke Energy's Mayo and Roxboro Plants have a combined annual property tax value of \$869,175,056, equating to \$6,258,060 in tax revenue to Person County, and representing 18.5% of Person County's \$34.65 million in annual property tax revenue. Visit personcountync.gov for more information.