

# DON'T BILL US FOR DUKE ENERGY'S MISTAKES

## No rate hikes for dirty energy.

### OVERVIEW

Duke Energy Progress is seeking approval from the North Carolina Utilities Commission for a **\$477.5 million** increase in the amount they can collect from ratepayers each year. This would result in energy bills that are 16.7% higher for Duke Energy Progress' residential customers in North Carolina. This rate increase request by Duke Energy Progress is unreasonably large and should be opposed because the company has not been prudent on major issues, such as the handling and storage of toxic coal ash waste in North Carolina.

You can submit your own comments by email to [statements@ncuc.net](mailto:statements@ncuc.net). You'll need to be sure to include Docket E-2 Sub 1142 in the subject line. You can also give testimony at the public hearings. Make sure to make your comments personal. Ask yourself why this rate increase impacts your life. Remember to try to also put a few facts in there too. We have compiled a list to help you write your comments. <http://www.ncconservation-network.org/ratehikehearings/>

### WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS REQUEST FOR A MAJOR RATE HIKE:

- Duke Energy Progress is asking for this significant rate increase, in part, to cover the costs of addressing its leaking coal ash pits across the state. Duke Energy Progress has neglected costs for maintenance and upkeep to

its leaking and toxic coal ash pits for many years. Now that those costs have piled up, the company wants us to pay for its mistakes.

- Most North Carolina families, especially those on fixed incomes, can't afford higher energy bills. The average customer's bill will increase \$17.80 per month-- that's nearly \$214 every year. 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.
- Duke Energy reported 2016 profits of over \$2 billion and Duke's CEO is paid \$13.8 million annually.

### COAL ASH COSTS ARE ESPECIALLY PROBLEMATIC. DON'T REWARD DUKE FOR BAD DECISIONS.

- Of this requested increase in energy bills, \$195 million (annually for 5 years) would go towards Duke Energy Progress' ongoing and past coal ash storage, cleanup, and compliance costs.
- Coal ash costs: \$332.5M for costs already incurred plus ongoing annual \$129M



The average customer's bill will increase \$17.80 per month.

### DON'T RAISE OUR RATES FOR DIRTY FUEL:



**\$332.5 Million** for costs already incurred plus **\$129 Million** for Duke's coal ash mess



**\$416 Million** New gas plants



**\$45 Million** Nuclear development at Harris plant

*"Prosecutors say the criminal negligence of the nation's largest electricity company resulted in unlawful pollution at its coal-fired power plants. Duke pleaded guilty to crimes involving its operations in Eden, Moncure, Asheville, Goldsboro and Mount Holly."*

– WRAL, May 14, 2015

- Duke Energy Progress' coal ash has threatened neighbors' well water and they've refused to take financial responsibility for their leaking coal ash pits in North Carolina. Families living near coal ash sites have been on bottled water for over 2 years, and those same people could be paying higher energy bills for costs associated with coal ash.
- Department of Environmental Quality admits that Duke Energy committed over 2,000 violations of North Carolina law, which Duke Energy failed to address prior to the Dan River spill in 2014. Customers shouldn't have to

pay for Duke Energy's illegal coal ash pollution and poor planning.

### HURTING NORTH CAROLINA WORKING CLASS AND LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES:

- Fixed Charge: A fixed charge is the base payment required on every bill, meaning it does not depend on the amount of energy a household uses. Duke Energy is asking to nearly double the fixed charge that residential customers pay—from \$11.13 to \$19.50. This will de-incentivize energy efficiency and have a disproportionate impact on low-income and fixed-income households.

- These rate hikes will have a disproportionate impact on low-income and fixed-income individuals, such as seniors. 13% of families in NC are at or below the poverty line. Median household income in NC is \$47,830 compared to that of Duke Energy's CEO's salaries of \$13.8 million.

*Duke Energy has put our water and communities at risk, and now they want us to pay the price for their bad business practices.*



*Customers shouldn't have to pay for Duke Energy's illegal coal ash pollution and poor planning.*



*Duke Energy has pleaded guilty of past environmental violations.*

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