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In comments, NCSEA argues against Duke's fossil fuel heavy 2020 IRP

**RALEIGH, N.C., March 1, 2021**— Today, North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) filed [comments](#) reflecting our disappointment with Duke Energy's 2020 Integrated Resource Plans (IRP). Duke's IRP—the 15-year road map for how the utility plans to meet North Carolina's energy needs— are required to reflect the *least-cost option* for ratepayers. The plans filed in September, though, are filled with high-cost scenarios that are overly reliant on natural gas and use questionable price modeling to scapegoat renewables.

Comments filed by NCSEA and other intervenors offer evidence that energy efficiency and renewables will save ratepayers billions of dollars and avoid tons of pollution compared to the traditional energy sources on which Duke's plan rely. Particularly for residents in some of North Carolina's most economically challenged counties, an IRP that prioritizes clean energy will boost economies by offering high-paying jobs, stable sources of income, and investment opportunities. As submitted though, Duke's IRPs are locking us into years of unnecessary costs and carbon emissions that will impact lower-income and underserved North Carolinians the most.

"Duke's IRP is in direct contradiction to their advertised plans for a clean energy future for North Carolina," said Ward Lenz, Executive Director at NCSEA. "Using flawed models and pricing estimates to overestimate the cost of renewables, Duke's IRP looks more like the plan of a company that says one thing in public and something entirely different in proceedings that very few people will see," Lenz continued. "Our filed comments demonstrate that the North Carolina produced renewable energy sources that our communities need and desire are within reach—at equal or lesser cost than coal and natural gas."

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) has already demonstrated a willingness to hold Duke to a higher standard when they approved Duke's 2018 IRP for only two (of fifteen) years. NCSEA hopes that the NCUC will continue holding Duke accountable and reject their 2020 IRP as submitted. Before issuing a ruling, the NCUC will hold a virtual public hearing on the IRPs on March 16.



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**About North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association**

North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) is the leading 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that drives public policy and market development for clean energy. Our work enables clean energy jobs, economic opportunities, and affordable energy options for North Carolinians. Learn more about NCSEA, our mission, and vision at [www.energync.org](http://www.energync.org).