

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

PROCEEDING #15-11459

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

10:30 A.M.

ALLOWABLE EX PARTE BRIEFING [ND-2015-5-E]

REQUESTED BY DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC (DEC) – COAL ASH DISPOSAL

TRANSCRIPT OF
ALLOWABLE *EX PARTE* BRIEFING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Nikiya M. 'Nikki' HALL,
Chairman; Swain E. WHITFIELD, *Vice Chairman*; and
COMMISSIONERS John E. 'Butch' HOWARD, Elliott F. ELAM, JR.,
Comer H. 'Randy' RANDALL, Elizabeth B. 'Lib' FLEMING, and
G. O'Neal HAMILTON,

ADVISOR TO COMMISSION: Joseph Melchers, General Counsel

STAFF PRESENT: B. Randall Dong, Esq., Josh Minges, Esq., and David
Stark, Esq., Legal Staff; Philip Riley, Tom Ellison, and Lynn
Ballentine, Advisory Staff; Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM/M|GNSC,
Court Reporter; and Allison Minges and Colanthia Alvarez, Hearing Room
Assistants

APPEARANCES:

FRANK R. ELLERBE, III, ESQUIRE, along with *HEATHER
SHIRLEY SMITH* [Deputy General Counsel / Duke Energy], and *MIKE
RUHE* [Director, Environmental Policy and Affairs / Duke
Energy], presenters, representing DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC

JEFFREY M. NELSON, ESQUIRE, representing the SOUTH
CAROLINA OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

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Please note the following inclusions/attachments to the record:

- PowerPoint presentation (PDF)

For identification of additional referenced materials (if any) and links for same, please see:

- ORS correspondence filed as part of the *ex parte* briefing process

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Thank you. Be seated. Good
3 morning, everyone. We will call this *ex parte*
4 briefing to order and ask Mr. Melchers to read the
5 docket for us, please.

6 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, Madam Chairman.
7 Commissioners, we're here pursuant to a Notice of
8 Request for an Allowable *Ex Parte* Communication
9 Briefing, requested by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC,
10 scheduled for today, February 10, 2014_[sic], at 10:30,
11 here in the Commission hearing room. Our subject
12 matter to be discussed is: coal ash disposal.
13 Thank you, Madam Chairman.

14 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** All right. Good morning.

15 **HEATHER SHIRLEY SMITH [DUKE ENERGY]:** Good
16 morning, Madam Chairman and Commissioners. Heather
17 Shirley Smith. I'm here to introduce our speaker
18 today. Today, Mike Ruhe is here to speak with you
19 about the company's coal ash disposal plans here in
20 South Carolina. Mr. Ruhe serves as Environmental
21 Policy and Affairs director at Duke Energy for
22 South Carolina. He's responsible for developing
23 and implementing environmental policies that impact
24 the operations of the corporation in South
25 Carolina. Mr. Ruhe has a Bachelor's degree in

1 Biology from Notre Dame, a Master's degree in
2 Environmental and Health Engineering from
3 Northwestern University, and an MBA from Winthrop
4 University. He has 30 years' experience in the
5 energy industry and with Duke, and has served in a
6 variety of technical and leadership positions
7 within the environmental-health-and-safety arena,
8 including areas such as waste management, water
9 compliance, environmental support, and
10 environmental project management. Mr. Ruhe was
11 named Environmental Policy and Affairs director in
12 December of 2012, and is ready to present again to
13 you today.

14 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Thank you.

15 Mr. Ruhe, we welcome you. Proceed when you
16 are ready.

17 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Thank you. Here's
18 the hardest part: not messing up the screen.

19 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Okay, good luck.

20 [Reference: Presentation Slide 1]

21 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** As Heather said, you
22 know, my name is Mike Ruhe; I'm Environmental
23 Policy and Affairs director for Duke Energy's
24 operations here in South Carolina.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to provide this

1 update on Duke Energy's coal ash management
2 activities here in South Carolina. Much scientific
3 and engineering work has continued at both our W.S.
4 Lee and Robinson plants since we were last here
5 before you on September 23rd. The results of this
6 work have helped the company shape its overall ash
7 closure strategies at both sites.

8 Duke Energy had committed to sharing these
9 strategies with South Carolina DHEC by the end of
10 2014, and I'm pleased to provide a similar update
11 to you here today.

12 First and foremost, Duke Energy is committed
13 to the safe operation and ultimate closure of all
14 of our ash management units, and we're aggressively
15 moving in that direction. All of our decisions
16 that we are working through are based on sound
17 science and engineering, and that will come out as
18 I show this to you.

19 [Reference: Presentation Slide 2]

20 Okay, that was a brief agenda.

21 [Reference: Presentation Slide 3]

22 Okay, let's take a look at W.S. Lee. Lee
23 Steam Station was built in 1951. The last time we
24 were here, we said that our plans were to retire
25 Units 1 and 2 by April of this year. The company

1 has accelerated that timeline and did retire those
2 units on November 6, 2014.

3 Unit 3 is currently in an extended outage to
4 convert it from coal to natural gas. And Duke
5 Energy will start construction on the 750-megawatt
6 natural-gas combined-cycle plant at the site later
7 this summer.

8 Now, recall that the station has two active
9 basins, a primary and secondary basin, an inactive
10 basin from the 1950s, an ash structural fill, and a
11 former borrow area where ash was placed years ago
12 that is referred to as the ash fill area. These
13 storage areas collectively hold about 3.2 million
14 tons of ash.

15 [Reference: Presentation Slide 4]

16 Okay, here's the picture of the site, and I'll
17 just point out again where some of these ash
18 features are. Here's the primary basin right here
19 [indicating]. That's the secondary basin
20 [indicating]. The structural fill is this area
21 right here [indicating]. The inactive basin is
22 right here [indicating], and the ash fill area is
23 about the same size but it's this half coming off
24 the bottom end of the drawing. And, of course,
25 that's the Saluda River [indicating].

1 [Reference: Presentation Slide 5]

2 On September 23rd, the company announced that
3 ash from the inactive basin and that ash fill area
4 would be excavated and disposed of in a lined
5 landfill. Duke Energy entered into an agreement
6 with DHEC to do this work and we submitted an Ash
7 Removal Plan to the agency on December 18th.

8 The company has selected Waste Management,
9 Incorporated, to excavate and transport ash from
10 these two areas to a fully lined, solid-waste
11 landfill located in Homer, Georgia. This landfill
12 is also operated by Waste Management. Trucks will
13 be used to transport this ash, because the landfill
14 has no rail access.

15 [Reference: Presentation Slide 6]

16 As you can see, here's -- the majority of the
17 route will be by Interstate. The company is
18 working with Waste Management, South Carolina DOT,
19 and local municipal officials to determine the haul
20 route or combination of haul routes that present
21 the least impact to the public. And primarily
22 that's that little jaunt from where the A is in the
23 upper right corner, to get from the station to
24 Interstate 85.

25 Now, excavation of the inactive basin and the

1 ash fill area represents about 44 percent of the
2 total ash at the site, and we expect it to take
3 about three years to complete, once Duke Energy
4 receives all the necessary approvals and permits
5 from DHEC.

6 [Reference: Presentation Slide 7]

7 Okay. In addition, Duke Energy communicated
8 to DHEC on December 18th its closure strategy for
9 the remaining ash located in the primary basin, the
10 secondary basin, and that structural fill. Based
11 upon the results of site-specific engineering work
12 at the site, the company has decided to excavate
13 this ash, as well, from those areas and to relocate
14 it to a lined landfill. We decided this, based
15 upon the design and historical infrastructure
16 performance of those two active basins and the fact
17 that it would take extensive work to make those
18 locations suitable for any type of long-term
19 disposal.

20 Now, we're still exploring options for
21 disposing of this remaining ash at the site. Duke
22 Energy anticipates submitting a Conceptual Closure
23 Plan, including a design for a potential on-site
24 lined landfill, that addresses disposal of all the
25 ash stored in both the primary and secondary active

1 basins, and that structural fill, by December 15th
2 of this year. The company will continue to work
3 with DHEC to ensure continued safe operation of
4 these basins until they are fully closed.

5 [Reference: Presentation Slide 8]

6 All right, let's take a look at the Robinson
7 Plant. Robinson Coal Plant was built in 1960 and
8 subsequently retired in September of 2012. The
9 Robinson ash management facilities include a
10 single-cell ash basin and also what we're calling
11 the 1960 fill area, which is located to the west of
12 Units 1 and 2.

13 And just to refresh you, this [indicating] is
14 the active basin right here. And the other area we
15 talked about is right along this little part right
16 down here, to the west of the plant, kind of along
17 that transmission corridor where you see this
18 [indicating].

19 All right. The 1960 fill area, of course, was
20 created in 1960, and it received ash from Unit 1
21 until the current ash basin was constructed in the
22 mid-'70s. Duke Energy did contract with an outside
23 engineering firm in the late 2013-14 timeframe to
24 evaluate the extent and the volume of the ash in
25 this area. We've determined that the area is

1 approximately 25 acres and holds an estimated
2 331,000 tons of ash.

3 [Reference: Presentation Slide 9]

4 All right. The 72-acre ash basin is comprised
5 of a 49-acre primary basin cell itself and then a
6 23-acre dry storage area located immediately
7 upstream, or on the western end of that basin. Ash
8 thickness within that basin ranges anywhere from 11
9 to 23 feet deep -- or, 53 deep. I'm sorry. As I
10 told you last time, the surface of most of the
11 basin is dry. We've estimated the quantity of ash
12 in that basin to be about 3.9 million tons, for a
13 total of ash at the site around 4.2 million tons.

14 [Reference: Presentation Slide 10]

15 On December 29th, Duke Energy shared two Ash
16 Planning and Strategy documents with DHEC. The
17 first document confirmed the company's decision to
18 excavate ash from that 1960 fill area. This ash
19 will be consolidated with ash stored in the current
20 ash basin for final disposal.

21 Also, on December 29th, we provided an update
22 to DHEC on the progress we had made to date on the
23 Robinson ash closure investigation. In that
24 document, the company described the completed
25 activities and the future work that will support

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development of a preferred ash closure plan.

Between July and November of 2014, Duke Energy did conduct a number of geotechnical and environmental aspiration studies in and around both the active basin and that 1960 fill area. That program consists of soil borings; groundwater monitoring well installation; testing of soil, ash, groundwater, and free water; and also, *in situ* hydraulic conductivity testing. Additional groundwater samples are needed to perform the modeling necessary to support a preferred closure recommendation, and we'll be gathering that additional information this year.

[Reference: Presentation Slide 11]

In summary, Duke is committed to continued safe operation of our ash basins and protecting the environment and communities we serve. We will continue to work with DHEC to ensure we meet all required regulatory standards and we are moving swiftly on the engineering analyses needed to develop protective and effective closure solutions. As we make further decisions about final disposal of ash from these two stations, we'll be happy to come back before you and share those updates. Thank you.

1 [Reference: Presentation Slide 12]

2 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Thank you, Mr. Ruhe.

3 Commissioners, questions for Mr. Ruhe?

4 Commissioner Howard.

5 **COMMISSIONER HOWARD:** I know it's quite
6 involved to have a landfill permitted, but it's
7 also quite involved to move that much coal ash from
8 South Carolina to Georgia. Have you got a cost
9 comparison of what it would take and the time
10 involved in creating your own landfill somewhere in
11 that area to be close to the ash pond site rather
12 than to transport it? And how far is it from there
13 to Homer, Georgia?

14 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Homer, Georgia, is
15 about 70 or 80 miles from the station.

16 **COMMISSIONER HOWARD:** And transporting in
17 trucks, that just seems like a massive operation.
18 And it seems to me, obviously, not knowing all the
19 cost factors -- did you give consideration to
20 opening your own landfill and putting it on your
21 own landfill, in closer proximity to the coal ash
22 pond?

23 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** We did look at a
24 number of other options within South Carolina.
25 This one was the one -- the option -- that was the

1 most ready to go, and DHEC was pushing us to go
2 ahead and facilitate closure of that basin. So, to
3 meet a timeline in that -- you know, in the
4 agreements that were made with the agency, this was
5 the route that got it out the quickest.

6 **COMMISSIONER HOWARD:** I'm trying to think how
7 I want to ask this question. Were there any
8 repercussions from Ms. Good's segment on *60*
9 *Minutes*? Did public opinion make that timeline
10 shorter because of that segment on *60 Minutes*?

11 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** My personal opinion,
12 I thought that the segment was pretty fair and
13 balanced. I don't know that it really changed
14 anything, because we had already been working with
15 the agency long before on the timeline and what we
16 were going to do with that ash there. So the
17 process was pretty far down the road, as far as us
18 planning to excavate that ash.

19 **COMMISSIONER HOWARD:** So all this ash removal
20 -- again, I'm thinking, with all this ash removal,
21 you're coming to us for cost recovery? Or for the
22 ratepayers to pay for it? I'll put it that way.

23 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Okay. You know,
24 first of all, I'm not the Rates guy, but the way
25 that Duke Energy has looked at closure, closure of

1 ash basins is considered to be, you know, in our
2 view, just like decommissioning of a plant.

3 **COMMISSIONER HOWARD:** Right.

4 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** And so those two
5 stations are ending their useful life, and so, as
6 we go through those decommissioning activities, we
7 would anticipate coming back before you in some
8 manner. As I said, I'm not the Rate person.

9 Now, as far as closure of the inactive basin
10 over at W.S. Lee, the agency was pushing for a very
11 aggressive timeline, and that was the main driver
12 of why we went with Homer, Georgia.

13 **COMMISSIONER HOARD:** Okay. Thank you, very
14 much.

15 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Yes, sir.

16 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Commissioner Whitfield.

17 **VICE CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD:** Thank you, Madam
18 Chairman.

19 Mr. Ruhe, just to follow up a little bit with
20 where Commissioner Howard was going with the W.S.
21 Lee Plant, if I understand from your slides, you
22 had 3.2 million tons -- that's all five categories
23 -- and the part he's talking about was 1.4 million
24 tons that would be trucked to Homer, Georgia.

25 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** That's right.

1 **VICE CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD:** All right. Well,
2 how much does that leave in the two of the
3 categories that are remaining active? Would that
4 be all the remaining tonnage of the 3.2, or is --

5 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Yeah --

6 **VICE CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD:** -- is that another
7 number?

8 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** No, the 3.2 is the
9 total at the site. The 1.4, 1.41, is the areas
10 that we're looking to excavate right now. So, that
11 Delta is the primary basin, secondary basin, and
12 that structural fill.

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD:** Oh, so you're
14 counting the structural fill in -- well, I wasn't
15 really -- you've got that listed as closed, so I
16 wasn't thinking that was in your ash.

17 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Well, we're going to
18 go handle it all at the same time, yes, sir.

19 **VICE CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD:** All right. And that
20 leads me to my next question. You said in your
21 slide you were unsure where you would relocate, on-
22 site or off-site; you still are kind of formulating
23 those plans and not sure which way you're going to
24 go. Am I right?

25 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** We're going to study

1 that. You know, it's a fairly tight site, and
2 we're getting ready to build, you know, a combined-
3 cycle plant there, as well.

4 **VICE CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD:** Right.

5 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** What we want to do
6 is take the time to investigate whether we have an
7 option to go over and put some type of a lined
8 landfill at that site, you know, at some place.
9 That will take some time to do the studies to do
10 that. You know, it will take the balance of this
11 year. You know, locating a facility at the site
12 would be lower-cost to the ratepayer.

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD:** Right. And I've
14 seen from the slides here today, and other *ex*
15 *partes*, where you've only got X amount of space on
16 that site, and you still have the 750-megawatt
17 combined-cycle plant that you said you're going to
18 build, beginning construction on later this summer.
19 If -- and I know you've got -- you're talking about
20 starting to move, I guess, the second quarter 2015,
21 excavating and taking this to Homer, Georgia. But,
22 if -- I don't know if you've got enough time, but
23 if you were to go off-site like Commissioner Howard
24 was asking, if you have to permit another site off-
25 site but yet close to the facility there at Lee

1 Station, would that not be an option to not maybe
2 truck all of that to Homer, Georgia, like he was
3 saying?

4 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** DHEC is requiring us
5 to start moving ash within 90 days after, so that's
6 the driver.

7 **VICE CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD:** Okay. All right.
8 Thank you.

9 Thank you, Madam Chairman.

10 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Commissioner Hamilton.

11 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** I'm just wondering --
12 you didn't mention at any time any commercial use
13 of the ash for cement or other purposes. Was that
14 not an option for you?

15 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** In all of our sites,
16 you know, historically, Duke Energy recycles over
17 40 percent of the ash that we generate. These are
18 two older plants, smaller plants, you know. Often,
19 the economics work better for -- to get -- you have
20 to go over and have ash of a certain quality to be
21 reused, whether in cement manufacturing or
22 whatever. And much of this has already been buried
23 or in water for a prolonged period of time, and
24 from older boilers, so it would take significant
25 cost to make it a suitable quality as a product to

1 go into a process. So, no, not at these two
2 stations.

3 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** Not at these two. I
4 know some others have been able to utilize the ash,
5 but this ash, as you say, wouldn't be preferable
6 for that?

7 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Well, and part of
8 the thing in other areas, too, to look at, you have
9 an ongoing interest, you know, for ash. So, say on
10 the eastern part of the State, if you're continuing
11 to have coal generation, you're continuing to have
12 a waste stream going into that to make it
13 economically worthwhile to go and build support
14 facilities to do that kind of ash beneficiation.

15 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** Right.

16 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** You know, we're
17 shutting these two units down.

18 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** The landfill that
19 you're using on the one in Georgia -- and I'm sure
20 you're going to have to find one for the Robinson
21 Plant, too -- how many years will you have to
22 monitor this ash landfill?

23 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Well, you know, this
24 ash will be -- is really just like any type of
25 other solid waste. So, you know, there's lining

1 and leachate collection, so all that will continue
2 to be monitored by Waste Management at their
3 facility.

4 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** Okay. And will this
5 be an expense for Duke, as long as this happens?

6 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Well, I mean, as far
7 -- as long -- as far as the monitoring cost over in
8 Georgia?

9 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** Yeah. That'll be
10 Waste Management's --

11 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** That'll be Waste
12 Management's.

13 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** -- responsibility?
14 Okay. So that won't be the responsibility --

15 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** That's my
16 understanding.

17 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** -- of Duke? That
18 sounds like a pretty good deal. I thank you very
19 much.

20 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Yes, sir.

21 **COMMISSIONER HAMILTON:** I appreciate you
22 coming and I appreciate your testimony. I think
23 it's invaluable to us to know what's happening.

24 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Thank you.

25 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Commissioners, any other

1 questions? Commissioner Fleming.

2 **COMMISSIONER FLEMING:** Good morning. Nice to
3 have you here today --

4 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Thank you.

5 **COMMISSIONER FLEMING:** -- with this update.
6 It sounds like you've been busy trying to meet
7 those timelines?

8 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** They are aggressive,
9 yes, ma'am.

10 **COMMISSIONER FLEMING:** Yeah. And you feel
11 comfortable with the decisions under the timelines
12 you've been working on?

13 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Yes, ma'am.

14 **COMMISSIONER FLEMING:** You talked about the
15 borings and monitoring and testing of the on-site,
16 but you didn't talk about what you found there.
17 What are you doing to make sure that, within this
18 timeline of getting the ash moved, that there are
19 no accidents or water contaminations? I think,
20 before, there were issues about the berms being
21 compromised possibly?

22 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Over in the inactive
23 basin, yes, ma'am. We've had to submit, you know,
24 an Ash Removal Plan to DHEC that explains how we
25 are peeling back the layers, pulling it back away

1 from the river. And so, you know, we're installing
2 catch containment areas, so we're being very
3 methodical in how we are removing ash and pulling
4 it back from the river. It's not just a massive
5 come-in-and-dig. So, it's very strategic on how we
6 are going in.

7 You know, and as I've shown in past
8 presentations, that area is heavily treed, so we're
9 going to have to go in and take due care as we go
10 through and excavate that area. You know, we had
11 done the borings to go over and confirm that that
12 was not a place that we wanted to store ash long-
13 term, and now we just need to go execute the plan
14 that was submitted to DHEC, and we're awaiting
15 those approvals now.

16 **COMMISSIONER FLEMING:** So you feel you have
17 measures in place that will prevent any additional
18 spillage, or spillage, or contamination to the
19 water sources?

20 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Yes, ma'am, we do.

21 **COMMISSIONER FLEMING:** Okay, thank you.

22 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Commissioner Elam.

23 **COMMISSIONER ELAM:** You mentioned you're
24 working with municipal authorities along the route
25 to Georgia. Can you talk a little bit more about

1 this. Why is it being transported by truck and not
2 by rail?

3 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Because the landfill
4 doesn't have rail access.

5 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Okay. At all? Or it wouldn't
6 be --

7 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** No, ma'am.

8 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** It's not at all possible.

9 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** No, ma'am.

10 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Okay. And the other thing --
11 I missed this, too -- on Lee, the basins you have
12 listed, the ash fill borrow pit, why is its status
13 non-applicable? On Slide 3?

14 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Okay [indicating].

15 [Reference: Presentation Slide 3]

16 Oh, it doesn't have any regulatory status.

17 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Okay.

18 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** It's just there.

19 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** It's just there, but it
20 doesn't have any ash in it? Or it --

21 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** No, it was formed
22 when the basin -- when the 5059 basin area was
23 originally made.

24 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Okay.

25 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** And when we were

1 doing site assessment, we found this area,
2 essentially.

3 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Okay.

4 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** So, you know, once
5 we identified it, there is essentially a large pile
6 of ash that's overgrown with trees. And so there
7 was no engineering done, you know, to construct it,
8 other than to haul it and place it there, back
9 in --

10 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** Okay, before there were
11 regulations on it.

12 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Yes.

13 **CHAIRMAN HALL:** All right. Thank you. Mr.
14 Ruhe, we are glad to have you today. We're glad
15 you're keeping us updated, and I'm sure you'll be
16 back in again to let us know the status. Thank
17 you.

18 This hearing is adjourned.

19 **MIKE RUHE [DUKE ENERGY]:** Thank you, very
20 much.

21 [WHEREUPON, at 11:00 a.m., the
22 proceedings in the above-entitled matter
23 were adjourned.]

24 _____

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had and testimony adduced in an Allowable Ex Parte Proceeding held before THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA in Columbia, South Carolina, according to my verbatim record of same.

Given under my hand this 10th day of February,
2015.



Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM/M-GNSC
Court Reporter