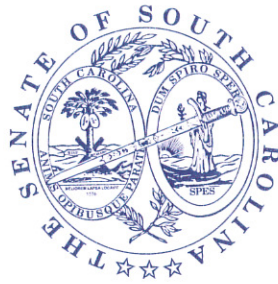


Shane Martin

South Carolina Senate District 13
Greenville, Spartanburg and Union Counties



Committees

Corrections and Penology, Chairman

Finance

- Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Chairman

Medical Affairs

Rules

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January 26, 2023

Ms. Lynn Good, Chair and CEO
Duke Energy
550 South Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Ms. Good:

Please accept this letter as my formal opposition to Duke Energy's proposed Big Ferguson project in its current form. My concern lies with siting a substation and related high voltage transmission lines in the middle of a rural, agricultural area. I understand that Duke Energy will face increased energy demands in my constituent area of southwest Spartanburg County. My constituents and I prefer that Duke construct the infrastructure to address this growth on existing commercial or industrial sites and/or along existing four-lane highways. This is a practical and equitable solution for the rural, farming community which I represent.

I also am troubled by the process followed by Duke that led us to this point. Duke Energy acquired land last June to build a substation in the Green Pond Community at the corner of Green Pond Road and SC State Highway 417 (known historically as Dillard Crossroads without any engagement of elected officials or the community.

Duke Energy, in September, informed certain residents in the Big Ferguson Siting Study Area of its plans to build the substation and (at least one) new 100-kilovolt transmission lines through the Study Area and invited residents to a September 20 Open House. I was not informed of this meeting by Duke but learned of it after the fact from my constituents.

Duke employees at the Open House provided no detailed or specific project information, no knowledge of the nature of the Study Area, and offered different answers to the same questions to different people.

Duke, in the opinion of many constituents, refused during the latter months of 2022 to answer specific questions and failed to widely inform my constituents of access to a FAQ section of its website. I heard from many of them, and hosted a meeting with Duke representatives, including

your representatives, at my home office to discuss concerns about the siting of the substation and related high voltage transmission lines. At that meeting on December 16th, I requested specific answers and data from Duke to my questions and concerns I raised to them. These have not been received by my office!

I scheduled a meeting on January 23rd with constituents in the Greenpond Community and really hoped I would have gotten answers from Duke before then. During my constituent meeting, I learned that SC State Representative Bill Chumley met with Chuck Claunch and two other Duke officials on January 19th at Mr. Chumley's office in Columbia. During that meeting Duke representatives were communicating with Duke engineers remotely. I have been advised that as a result of this meeting Duke agreed to revisit the siting of the substation, with particular emphasis on the area or within the proposed BMW EV Battery manufacturing site and/or at the de-energized line at the intersection of Hwys 101 and 221 in Woodruff.

I and my constituents believe that better options include existing area industrial sites for the substation and existing four-lane highways and industrial corridors for the transmission lines. This not only solves the siting issue, but also positively addresses the concern for the physical security of power substations. I request that Duke formally commit to identifying and announcing relocation and re-siting of the Big Ferguson Project. Please reply to this letter by Thursday, February 2nd, and inform me of the plan for the revision of this project.

Sincerely,



Shane R. Martin
Greenville, Spartanburg and Union Counties, District 13

cc: Michael Callahan, Duke Energy South Carolina
Sofia O'Keefe, Transmission Public Engagement
Erin DeGutis, Site Selection Team
Chuck Claunch, Duke Energy
D. Wayne Waddell, Green Pond Rural Alliance