



Annual Review of Base Rates for Fuel Costs of Duke Energy Progress (DEP)

Docket No. 2023-1-E

Duke Energy Progress (DEP) filed its direct testimony with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC) on May 2, 2023, to change the amount it can charge customers for fuel used to generate power. DEP states that an increase in firm natural gas transportation reservation costs and commodity price increases are the key drivers contributing to DEP's request to adjust consumer rates.

If approved by the PSC, the changes requested by DEP would result in an increase of approximately \$5.55 per month (~3.7%) for a typical residential consumer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month. The impacts for the average Residential or General Service (demand or non-demand) will vary by customer, as outlined in the table below.

The case is scheduled to be considered by the PSC in June 2023.

Consumer Impact Summary

Number of Affected Consumers: ~177,000

Each year, the PSC holds a hearing to determine if there should be any adjustment in the amount that DEP charges consumers for fuel used to generate power. This charge is included in base rates and is based on the cost of fuel the company paid in the previous year and the projected fuel costs over the upcoming year.

During this hearing, the PSC also determines whether there should be an increase or decrease in the Distributed Energy Resource Program (DERP) charge. The DERP charge recovers incremental program costs to promote the installation of renewable energy resources (solar) in South Carolina.

	Existing	If approved	Percent Increase
Residential ¹	\$148.18	\$153.73	~3.7%
General Service (non-demand) ²	\$136.51	\$138.02	~1.1%
General Service (demand) ³	\$4,125.87	\$4,229.92	~2.5%

¹ Based on using 1,000 kWh / month

² Based on using 908 kWh / month

³ Based on 122 kW demand, using 50,858 kWh / month

About the Office of Regulatory Staff

The ORS represents consumers of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina before the PSC. The PSC is the state agency that sets utilities' rates. The ORS must look at the impact to the consumer and utilities' continued investment in reliable and high-quality services.