



**For Immediate Release**

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***Columbia, S.C., March 17, 2011 –***

**Office of Regulatory Staff Joins Multi-State Working Group  
to Address Duke-Progress Proposed Merger**

**Columbia, S.C. –** The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, whose mission is to represent the public interest in utility regulation, has joined a multi-state working group that is examining the proposed merger of Duke Energy and Progress Energy Carolinas. In addition, the newly formed group will review issues related to the Joint Dispatch Agreement, which must be approved in South Carolina. Other states included in the current group are North Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio, among others.

According to ORS Executive Director Dukes Scott, “Collaborating with other states will allow the ORS to develop a well informed position on this matter. We are very pleased to serve with our counterparts in other states to explore the potential ramifications of this proposed merger.” Scott added that this collaboration will allow the State to have input into the process and results.

*The Office of Regulatory Staff is an agency of the State of South Carolina. Its mission is to represent the public interest in utility regulation by balancing the concerns of the using and consuming public, the financial integrity of public utilities, and the economic development of South Carolina. For more information, please visit the ORS web site at <http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov/>.*

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