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**Office of Regulatory Staff Files Intervention in
Duke-Progress Merger in North Carolina**

The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) has filed to intervene and become a party of record in the proposed holding-company merger application filed in North Carolina of Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) and Progress Energy, Inc. (Progress).

The ORS is intervening in North Carolina so that the public interest of South Carolina can be advocated in a proceeding in which the proposed merger of Duke and Progress, the holding companies of Duke Energy Carolinas LLC (DEC) and Progress Energy Carolinas Inc. (PEC), is at issue.

Although there is a filing in South Carolina, there is no approval of the holding companies merger being sought. Instead, at issue in the South Carolina proceeding is the approval of the merger of the two operating electric utilities (DEC and PEC).

The ORS will participate in both proceedings – addressing the proposed merger of the holding companies in North Carolina and the proposed merger of the operating electric utilities in South Carolina -- to ensure that the public interest of South Carolina is consistently represented and protected.

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/>