

November 18, 2019

Via Electronic Filing

Acting Chief Clerk  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
430 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606-5926

**Re: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's Motion to Withdraw Program  
Docket No. E-7, Sub 1155**

Dear Acting Chief Clerk:

On behalf of our association's membership of builders, contractors and other stakeholders that work in North Carolina's energy efficiency industry, we ask that you hold a hearing with Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas to work out the differences these companies have regarding the Residential New Construction Program's expansion to the Duke Energy Carolinas territory.

We understand Piedmont Natural Gas' concerns about the possibility that builders may choose to use less natural gas in favor of electricity as a result of incentives they may receive through the program's current structure. However, the program does not inherently favor electricity over gas and the trend to use more electricity is occurring naturally in the market, irrespective of incentives. Holding back the incentive program due to utility profit motives should not be the deciding factor - supporting consumer energy saving should be.

The expansion of this program, which saves consumers energy no matter the source, should not be held up due to Piedmont Natural Gas' concerns over lost revenue from the builders that choose to participate. As stated in our earlier comments on August 16th, 2019 (linked below), our state is missing out on a wealth of economic, environmental and workforce benefits by not expanding this program.

Saving homeowners and renters energy during new construction is the least expensive option available - no matter the source of energy.

Please hold a hearing with these utilities and support their working out of these differences in order to approve the program's expansion.

NCBPA's comments from August 16, 2019

<https://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/ViewFile.aspx?Id=efb32a68-ed82-4ec7-8596-4d532a104bfa>

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,





# Letter of Support

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**D. Ryan Miller**

Founder & Executive Director

North Carolina Building Performance Association (NCBPA)

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919-521-3385

**Enclosed: RNC Program Expansion Analysis**

## RNC Program Expansion Analysis

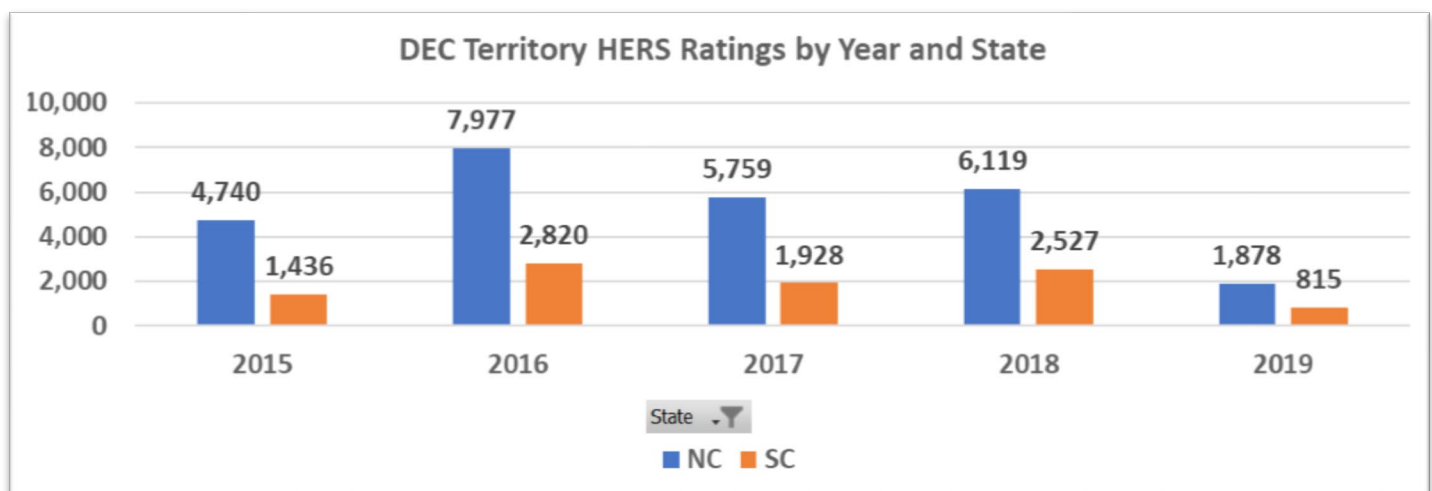
North Carolina Building Performance Association (NCBPA), the state’s not-for-profit trade association for residential and commercial energy efficiency, green building and high performance construction companies and professionals, has prepared this analysis in support of expanding Duke Energy Progress’ (DEP) Residential New Construction (RNC) program into the Duke Energy Carolinas’ (DEC) territory for both North and South Carolina. This analysis was initially completed in August of 2018 and has been updated in August of 2019.

The DEP program has been incredibly successful in incentivizing residential builders to increase the energy efficiency offerings of their homes in the DEP territory. Doing so has resulted in energy savings, workforce development, economic development, environmental benefits to the state. NCBPA and its member companies support expanding the program into the DEC territory strongly.

Home Energy Rating System ratings (HERS ratings) are the industry standard for measuring a new home’s energy efficiency and are performed on every single home incentivized through the DEP RNC program. In order to estimate the number of homes that could be made more energy efficient via an RNC incentive in the DEC territory, using these scores is a straightforward approach.

### Summary Findings

Using data purchased from RESNET, the national certification body for HERS ratings, NCBPA found that nearly 36,000 HERS ratings were performed in the DEC territory in North Carolina and South Carolina between January 2015 – July 2019. None of these homes received an RNC rebate due to the lack of program availability in the area.



The number of homes that could have been incentivized to meet the DEP RNC program’s standard of 15% increased energy efficiency (compared to minimum energy code in the DEC territory in both states) can be estimated using HERS rating ranges. To perform this analysis, NCBPA estimated the scores needed to meet the minimum threshold relative to each state’s minimum energy code.

- Note that the ranges are different in NC and SC because the new 2018 North Carolina Energy Conservation Code (2018 NCECC), which started in January of 2019 and is roughly equivalent

to the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (2012 IECC), is roughly 15% more energy efficient than South Carolina's current energy code (roughly 2009 IECC equivalent).

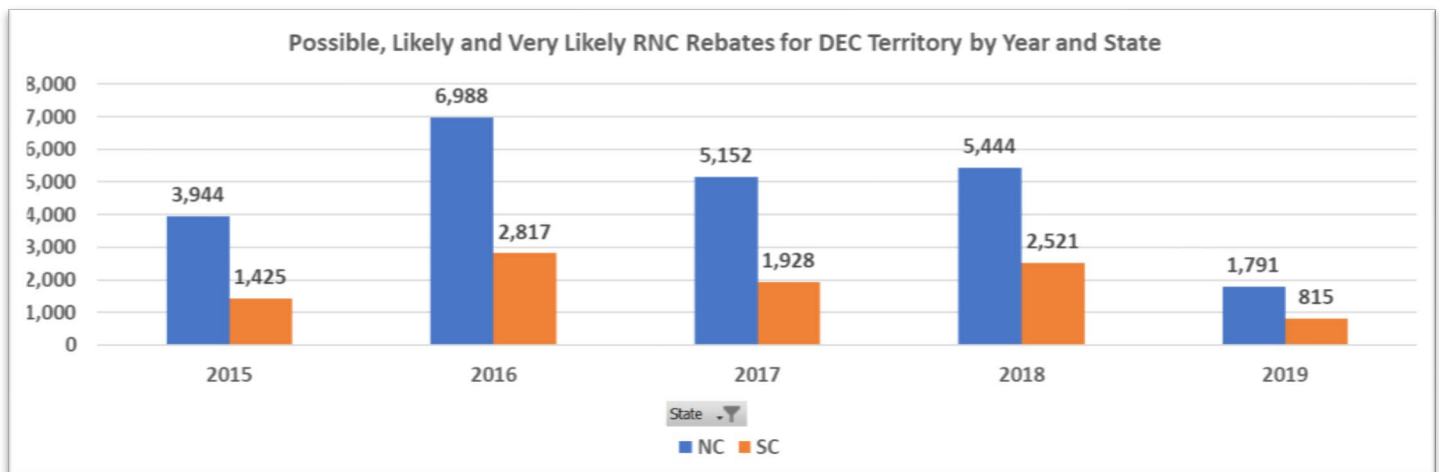
<b>Likelihood of Rebate at <u>100%</u> Conversion Rate</b>	<b>North Carolina DEC</b> <i>Roughly Equivalent to 2012 IECC</i>	<b>South Carolina DEC</b> <i>Roughly Equivalent to 2009 IECC</i>
<b>Very Likely</b> Less than 5% EE improvement or no EE improvement needed	HERS 60 or Less <b>5,157 homes</b>	HERS 70 or Less <b>7,171 homes</b>
<b>Likely</b> ~ 5 – 15% EE improvement needed	HERS 61 – 70 <b>12,649 homes</b>	HERS 71 – 80 <b>2,051 homes</b>
<b>Possible</b> ~15 - 20% EE improvement needed	HERS 71 – 75 <b>5,513 homes</b>	HERS 81 – 85 <b>284 homes</b>
<b>Not Likely</b> More than 20% EE improvement needed	HERS 76 or Above <b>3,154 homes</b>	HERS 86 or Above <b>20 homes</b>

## Analysis at Varying Conversion Rates

The above analysis relies on a 100% conversion rate for all possible homes that may meet the criteria. This conversion rate is not likely as some builders will not participate for a variety of reasons. To provide more realistic conversion possibilities, the above table is segmented below based on differing levels of conversion rates.

<b>Likelihood of Rebate at <u>Varying</u> Conversion Rate</b>	<b>North Carolina DEC</b> <i>Roughly Equivalent to 2012 IECC</i>	<b>South Carolina DEC</b> <i>Roughly Equivalent to 2009 IECC</i>
<b>Very Likely</b> Less than 5% EE improvement or no EE improvement needed	HERS 60 or Less <b>5,157</b>	HERS 70 or Less <b>7,171</b>
<i>75% Conversion Rate</i>	3,868	5,378
<i>50% Conversion Rate</i>	2,579	3,586
<i>25% Conversion Rate</i>	1,289	1,793
<b>Likely</b> ~ 5 – 15% EE improvement needed	HERS 61 – 70 <b>12,649</b>	HERS 71 – 80 <b>2,051</b>
<i>75% Conversion Rate</i>	9,487	1,538
<i>50% Conversion Rate</i>	6,325	1,026

<i>25% Conversion Rate</i>	3,162	513
<b>Possible</b> ~15 - 20% EE improvement needed	HERS 71 – 75 <b>5,513</b>	HERS 81 – 85 <b>284</b>
<i>75% Conversion Rate</i>	4,135	213
<i>50% Conversion Rate</i>	2,757	142
<i>25% Conversion Rate</i>	1,378	71
<b>Total Possible, Likely and Very Likely</b>	HERS 71 – 75 <b>23,919</b>	HERS 81 – 85 <b>9,506</b>
<i>75% Conversion Rate</i>	17,939	7,130
<i>50% Conversion Rate</i>	11,960	4,753
<i>25% Conversion Rate</i>	5,980	2,377



## Benefits of RNC Expansion to DEC Territory

Provided below are estimates of the energy, workforce, economic and environmental benefits of program expansion to the DEC territory. The savings are based on projected HERS rating data from 2018 using the Possible, Likely and Very Likely scenarios with a 100% conversion rate (to show full potential impact) with a 20% growth factor applied (due to market growth and slowly improving annual energy efficiency).

In these cases, the estimated energy savings and environmental benefits are formulated from the projected energy costs that are provided by HERS ratings. The workforce and economic benefits are estimated from the impact of the increase in HERS ratings and resulting energy savings.

## Annualized Market Impacts of Rebate Expansion

(Note: Calendar year 2018 actual data + 20% growth factor used for analysis)

	<b>DEC North Carolina</b>	<b>DEC South Carolina</b>	<b>DEC Combined</b>
<b>Electricity Savings</b> <i>Annual consumer electricity savings resulting for likely homes at 15% improvement</i>	15% decrease in modeled electricity usage <b>= \$1,524,430 annual savings</b>	15% decrease in modeled electricity usage <b>= \$771,974 annual savings</b>	15% decrease in modeled electricity usage <b>= \$2,296,403 annual savings</b>
<b>Workforce Benefits</b> <i>Local rating company jobs created</i>	6,533 homes 125 homes per job <b>= 52 new jobs</b>	3,025 homes 125 homes per job <b>= 24 new jobs</b>	9,558 homes 125 homes per job <b>= 76 new jobs</b>
<b>Economic Impact</b> <i>Local taxable revenue created for rating companies and builder subs</i>	6,533 homes \$500 avg. rating fee + \$250 new sub fees <b>= \$4,899,750 revenue</b>	3,025 homes \$500 avg. rating fee + \$250 new sub fees <b>= \$2,268,750 revenue</b>	9,558 homes \$500 avg. rating fee + \$250 new sub fees <b>= \$7,166,250 revenue</b>
<i>Municipal code official savings through use of Energy Rating Index for code compliance</i>	2 hours per home @ \$75 per hour total cost <b>= \$979,950 savings</b>	Not currently available in SC, but if it were: <b>= \$453,750 savings</b>	2 hours per home @ \$75 per hour total cost <b>= \$1,433,700 savings</b>
<b>Environmental Benefits</b> <i>Annual carbon offsets created through electricity savings</i>	10,780 metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> offset annually	5,459 metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> offset annually	16,239 metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> offset annually