



RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO EXPEDITE THE PROVISION OF PERMANENT WATER SUPPLIES TO RESIDENTS NEAR ALLEN STEAM STATION

WHEREAS, Session Law 2016-95 required that “[a]s soon as practicable, but no later than October 15, 2018, the owner of a coal combustion residuals surface impoundment shall establish permanent replacement water supplies for . . . each household that has a drinking water supply well located within a one-half mile radius from the established compliance boundary of a coal combustion residuals impoundment”; and,

WHEREAS, residents of Gaston County who rely on wells for their drinking water have been unable use their private wells for 18 months or more because of their concerns that their wells have been contaminated by pollutants associated with coal ash residuals stored at Duke Energy’s Allen Steam Station; and,

WHEREAS, residents of Gaston County have been solely dependent on bottled water to meet their basic drinking and cooking needs for far longer than is reasonable or tolerable; and,

WHEREAS, Session Law 2016-95 required Duke Energy to identify before January 1, 2017 three sites for the location of ash beneficiation projects which will remove all ash stored at the sites and reprocess it for use in cementitious products; and,

WHEREAS, coal ash disposed of in unlined storage areas in contact with groundwater poses a persistent threat to the water quality in the Catawba River and the drinking water of Gaston County families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners:

Calls upon Duke Energy to expedite with all available resources the provision of permanent water supplies to residents near its Allen Steam Station so that Gaston County families are not forced to rely on bottled water for their basic needs for two more years until the October 15, 2018 statutory deadline for provision of new water supplies;

Calls upon all state and county authorities to move with all possible haste to expedite needed approvals and otherwise facilitate the provision of water supplies to residents near Duke Energy’s Allen Steam Station; and

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I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

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Calls upon Duke Energy to site an ash beneficiation project at the Allen Steam Station such that all coal ash disposed of at the site will ultimately be excavated and processed into safe, productive use as cementitious products so that it no longer poses a threat to the Catawba River or the drinking water of Gaston County residents.