*** SUMMARY OF DR. BLACKBURN'S TESTIMONY**
TO THE NC UTILITIES COMMISSION
March 16, 2010

The purpose of my testimony is to address the Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) of Progress Energy and Duke Energy filed for 2008 and 2009 in Dockets E-100 Sub 118 and Sub 124, including the revision filed by Duke Energy in January 2010.

In my testimony and exhibits, I show that there are alternative paths to meeting the demand as forecasted in these plans, even though the plans may already overstate future demand. The alternative paths would permit a much more rapid reduction in coal-fired generation while not requiring the construction of costly nuclear capacity.

This would be accomplished in our plan by much more vigorous programs of increasing energy efficiency, a more rapid development of renewable sources and the exploitation of a much larger share of combined heat and power potentials in the service areas of the two utilities.

Our proposals are summarized in Tables 1-4 in Exhibit 3 in my testimony. The graphs I have just distributed take the data from those tables and put them in easier to visualize graphs. [See the graphs at the top of www.ncwarn.org]

We propose an accelerated effort to increase energy efficiency in electricity use at a rate of 1.5% per year, cumulated over the planning periods. We do so because it is the least expensive way to proceed. We understand that the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) is proposing a similar path for North Carolina.

We are further proposing that renewable resources of electricity be developed to meet 20% of electricity demand. Seventeen states now have renewable requirements of 20% or more; most of these states started with lower requirements and have raised them once or twice. In my analysis I include existing hydroelectric resources in the 20% renewable recommendation.

Utility customers which use heat, heat-driven air conditioning and electricity can benefit to a much larger extent than is now the case from combined heat and power (CHP) or cogeneration facilities. This technology uses the waste heat now discharged at electricity-only power plants as well as the associated cooling water and air pollution.

We emphasize that following plans like this do not rely on expensive nuclear facilities to meet electricity demand and phase out coal generation. Energy efficiency measures are already cost effective, and like renewable sources or CHP, become much more attractive economically when compared with the enormous costs of four large nuclear plants.

LINK TO DR. BLACKBURN'S FULL TESTIMONY