FILED April 30, 2015 INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IURC CAUSE NO. 44578 REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE E. SMITH FILED APRIL 30, 2015

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE E. SMITH PRODUCT AND SERVICES MANAGER DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS LLC ON BEHALF OF DUKE ENERGY INDIANA, INC. CAUSE NO. 44578 BEFORE THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

1		I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>
2	Q.	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.
3	A.	My name is Christine E. Smith and my business address is 400 South Tryon Street,
4		Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.
5	Q.	BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?
6	A.	I am employed as Product and Services Manager of Direct Offer Programs by Duke
7		Energy Carolinas LLC. Duke Energy Carolinas LLC is a wholly owned, indirect
8		subsidiary of Duke Energy Corporation. Duke Energy Indiana, Inc. ("Duke Energy
9		Indiana" or "Company") is a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of Duke Energy
10		Corporation.
11	Q.	ARE YOU THE SAME CHRISTINE E. SMITH THAT PRESENTED DIRECT
12		TESTIMONY IN THIS CAUSE, IDENTIFIED AS PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT B?
13	A.	Yes, I am.
14	Q.	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY IN THIS
15		PROCEEDING?
16	A.	The purpose of my Rebuttal Testimony is to clarify and further discuss the issues raised
17		in the Testimony of the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") regarding the

IURC CAUSE NO. 44578 REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE E. SMITH FILED APRIL 30, 2015

1		four (4) proposed solar Power Purchase Agreements ("PPAs") totaling twenty (20) MWs.
2		II. <u>REBUTTAL TO OUCC TESTIMONY</u>
3	Q.	THE OUCC REQUESTS THAT DUKE ENERGY INDIANA EXPAND ITS
4		GOGREEN ANNUAL REPORTS TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF USING
5		LOCAL SOLAR RECS ON GOGREEN PROGRAM COSTS PER REC
6		(DETAILING COMMODITY, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND MARKETING COSTS),
7		CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION LEVELS, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECS
8		USED IN ITS GOGREEN PROGRAM, AND AN ESTIMATE OF THE
9		BROKERAGE FEES AVOIDED BY NOT USING AN ESTABLISHED REC
10		MARKET TO BUY AND SELL RECS. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?
11	A.	Duke Energy Indiana understands the interest to review the impact of local solar
12		Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") with respect to costs, marketing strategy, and
13		participation for the Program and agrees to this request. The Company regularly reviews
14		marketing plans and would evaluate the impacts and costs from solar RECs as part of the
15		inventory mix and compare the results to the previous year. The current requirements for
16		the annual filing include participation of customers and blocks by month, the total
17		number of RECs purchased (wind and solar RECs as applicable), the cost of RECs per
18		MWh, and the total purchase cost including any brokerage fees. An estimate of
19		brokerage fees avoided for inter-company solar RECs could be added and estimated
20		using the brokerage cost of open market wind RECs. Some of the solar PPA pricing
21		information may be confidential. Subject to appropriate protections, this information will

CHRISTINE E. SMITH -2-

IURC CAUSE NO. 44578 REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE E. SMITH FILED APRIL 30, 2015

1		be provided to the OUCC and the Commission if it so desires. All other GoGreen costs
2		and revenues will continue to be reported and treated as non-confidential.
3	Q.	THE OUCC REQUESTS THE IURC REQUIRE DUKE ENERGY INDIANA TO
4		DISCLOSE THE FACT THAT ITS GOGREEN PROGRAM MAY USE RECS
5		FROM ONE OR MORE OF THE FOUR (4) SOLAR FACILITIES COVERED BY
6		THE PPAS APPROVED IN THIS CAUSE. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?
7	A.	The Company has actively shared the renewable energy projects supported by customers
8		since it started. Specifically, the Company discloses the source of REC inventory in the
9		Semi-annual Customer Thank You Letters and the GoGreen Annual Report, which is also
10		publically linked to the GoGreen Program Web site-landing page on Duke-Energy.com.
11		This full disclosure reporting would continue for all RECs purchased on behalf of
12		customers, including the disclosure of solar RECs as part of the renewable energy
13		portfolio mix if applicable.
14	Q.	THE OUCC REQUESTS THE COMMISSION SET A SUNSET DATE ON ANY
15		AUTHORITY DUKE ENERGY INDIANA RECEIVES IN THIS CASE
16		PERMITTING INTRA-COMPANY TRANSFER OF RECS, INTER-COMPANY
17		TRANSFERS OF RECS, OR OTHER OFF-MARKET SALES OF RECS,
18		SPECIFICALLY, THAT THE SUNSET DATE SHOULD BE TWO (2) TO THREE
19		(3) YEARS AFTER THE SOLAR FACILITIES HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION.
20		HOW DO YOU RESPOND?
21	A.	The Company does not believe this request is necessary. At current solar REC prices, the
22		Company anticipates that a small percentage of the GoGreen program (less than 10%)

CHRISTINE E. SMITH -3-

IURC CAUSE NO. 44578 REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE E. SMITH FILED APRIL 30, 2015

1		will be made up of solar RECs from these four (4) projects. The remaining RECs
2		acquired by the Company from these solar projects are expected to be sold on the open
3		market or possibly transferred to Duke Energy affiliates at market prices. In general,
4		solar REC liquidity and price transparency are determined by regional markets and
5		compliance standards within the region. Because the Indiana solar market is relatively
6		small, it is not certain whether solar RECs would be available within two (2) to three (3)
7		years on the Indiana open market. Additionally, the Duke Energy Indiana solar RECs
8		would be registered in a renewable energy tracking system, such as M-RETS or PJM-
9		GATS, which would allow them to be transferred to any market participant.
10		GoGreen was designed to offer customers the option to buy renewable energy that
11		is traded separately in the form of RECs and help build a market for renewable
12		electricity. Regardless of the way the RECs are procured, the GoGreen REC purchases
13		support economic and environmental benefits, create jobs, and diversify the fuel mix for
14		the grid and this would continue. As such, I would not recommend Duke Energy Indiana
15		have a limitation on how the RECs are used, whether sold on the open market, transferred
16		to the GoGreen program or utilized for Company compliance purposes, so long as
17		customers receive the benefits of the sales, which is what the Company has proposed.
18	Q.	THE OUCC ALSO REQUESTS THAT A SUB-DOCKET OF DUKE ENERGY
19		INDIANA'S GOGREEN PROGRAM BE IMPLEMENTED TO ALLOW THE
20		COMMISSION, THE OUCC, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO
21		EXAMINE THE FAIRNESS AND IMPACT OF OFF-MARKET TRANSFERS OF

IURC CAUSE NO. 44578 REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE E. SMITH FILED APRIL 30, 2015

1		RECS UNDER THE TWENTY (20)-YEAR SOLAR PPAS APPROVED IN THIS
2		CAUSE. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?
3	A.	Again, I do not believe this is necessary. It is unclear from Ms. Brown's testimony what
4		the OUCC hopes to accomplish by limiting the duration of time that GoGreen Indiana
5		customers can benefit from the purchase of Indiana RECs. As I mentioned in direct
6		testimony, customers have been requesting Indiana-based RECs and these solar RECs are
7		an important component of giving customers this option as part of their renewable
8		energy. As the market for Solar RECs develops in Indiana, Duke Energy will continue to
9		evaluate its participation in it, to the benefit of its customers.
10		III. <u>CONCLUSION</u>
11	Q.	DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PREPARED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY AT
12		THIS TIME?
13	А.	Yes.

VERIFICATION

I hereby verify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

time C- Smith Dated: 4-30-15 Signed: Chris

Christine E. Smith