

Hong Wang

**From:** Hong Wang on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 2:34 PM  
**To:** 'DeeVon Quirolo'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** FW: Duke #20240025  
**Attachments:** Adv Cst Comments Duke rate hearing 6.12.doc

Good Afternoon, DeeVon Quirolo,

We will be placing the comments in consumer correspondence in Docket 20240025-EI and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

*Hong Wang*

Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
850-413-6770

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**From:** DeeVon Quirolo <sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 1:19 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Cc:** Eugene Kelly <gmkelly@tampabay.rr.com>; Maxine Connor <Maxineconnor@gmail.com>; St Clair, Thomas <Tomstclair8@gmail.com>; Jilan Crowley <jilanhk@gmail.com>; rorlandi <fla33040@gmail.com>; Jasmine Tavares <jtavares0828@gmail.com>; Noa Adera <noaadera@gmail.com>; Denise Dookeran <dtdukeran@gmail.com>; Ben Berauer <bfberauer@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Duke #20240025

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Attached please find the comments of the Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group regarding the proposal by Duke Energy Florida for a rate increase.

Thank you, DeeVon

DeeVon Quirolo  
Sierra Club Adventure Coast  
Chair

Sierra Club is America's largest, most influential grassroots environmental organization, with 3.5 million members and supporters. We help people explore nature and our outdoor heritage, work to

promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, legal action. Visit [www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast).



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FLORIDA CHAPTER

**Adventure Coast Group**

<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast> [sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com)

June 11th, 2024

Florida Public Service Commission

Via email to [clerk@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:clerk@psc.state.fl.us)

Re: Duke # 20240025 Comments on Duke Florida proposal for a rate increase

Honorable Commissioners:

The Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group includes Citrus County, Florida, home to the Duke Energy Crystal River Powerplant. We contact you today to respectfully request that your consideration of a rate increase for Duke Energy Florida question the need for continuing to pay for maintenance and operation of two coal burning plants--Units 4 and 5. These two expensive, outdated and unhealthy plants generate coal pollution in our community that could be easily eliminated.

Duke Energy seeks to charge customers over \$50 million in the next two years on equipment maintenance on these coal units--funding that could be spent on clean energy. **We recommend that Duke shut down these coal-burning facilities by 2030 and invest in clean beneficial energy instead. Federal funding is now available that could reduce the cost that customers pay to Duke Energy to provide energy that won't pollute our air.**

The cost of coal drives up electricity rates for Duke customers. Duke could abandon these coal plants to provide customers with relief from high electricity bills. Coal is costly and Duke's outdated coal plants are expensive to operate.

Plus, these plants are causing air and environmental pollution in Citrus County. Burning coal generates tons of pollution, including particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, mercury, arsenic, and other toxic heavy metals. **Crystal River's CO2 emissions are equivalent to the annual CO2 emissions of 1,196,845 cars.** [[EPA GHG calculator](#)]

**These pollutants cause a range of health issues.** Short-term exposure to SO<sub>2</sub> can harm the human respiratory system and make breathing difficult for those with asthma, particularly children. High concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> can irritate airways in the respiratory system. Particle pollution exposure can cause premature death for those with heart or lung disease; heart attacks, irregular heartbeat; aggravated [asthma](#); decreased lung function; increased respiratory symptoms, coughing or difficulty breathing. [[USEPA Facts on particulate matter](#)], 2022 [study](#).

Burning coal emits significant greenhouse gasses such as CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>, contributing to accelerating climate change that threatens Florida's Gulf Coast cities and towns, especially every hurricane season. These coal plants release waste--toxic coal ash and wastewater that can leach into groundwater systems and create sinkholes. Coal ash has to be stored in lined ponds to prevent leakage. **Duke's Crystal River plants are linked to two old coal ash ponds that are NOT lined.** This could lead to groundwater contaminated with elevated levels of toxic Arsenic, Boron, Lithium, Molybdenum, Radium and Sulfate.

Replacing coal plants with renewable energy would result in cleaner, healthier air, new local jobs and lower bills for Duke's customers because renewable energy is more cost-effective. A new U.S. Department of Energy program offers power companies funds for shutting down such coal plants and replacing them with clean energy like solar and batteries. The Inflation Reduction Act offers rebates and 30% tax credits for new solar energy installations.

Duke Energy Florida should invest in charging stations and grid upgrades to help large fleets electrify. And provide more rebates for households, businesses, and state and local governments to install chargers for electric vehicles.

Use your oversight authority to require that Duke stop burning coal, plan now to retire its coal units by 2030 and invest in clean beneficial energy now.

Very truly yours,

*DeeVon Quirolo*  
DeeVon Quirolo  
Chair