



# 2025 Planning Cycle

## Transmission Needs Driven by Public Policy Requirements

The Southeastern Regional Transmission Planning (SERTP) process received one (1) stakeholder proposal of a possible transmission need driven by a Public Policy Requirement (PPR) for the 2025 planning cycle. A description and assessment of the proposal is explained below.

### Stakeholder Proposal #1

#### Description

- **Proposed By:** Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- **Description of Identified PPR(s):**  
North Carolina General Statutes Section 62-110.9 directs the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) to take all reasonable steps to achieve a 70% reduction in emissions of CO2 in the state from electric generating facilities owned or operated by Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress from 2005 levels by the year 2030 and carbon neutrality by the year 2050. In 2024 the NCUC approved a Carbon Plan that delayed the 2030 CO2 reduction target by 5 years due to Duke's claims to an inability to reduce emissions based on resources within its service territory, namely strict limits on how much solar DEC and DEP can bring online each year. Since SERTP is a regional organization, it is the best entity to evaluate if there are regional transmission projects that would allow the NCUC to achieve the statutory 2030 CO2 emission reduction goal.
- **Description of Possible Transmission Need:**  
Regional transmission projects could increase transfer capacity between the Duke utilities (DEC and/or DEP) and other SERTP utilities that can add additional clean energy to the grid faster than DEC and DEP.

#### Summary of Assessment:

- The SERTP sponsors interpret the stakeholder proposal to identify enacted North Carolina state law, House Bill 951 ("NC HB951") as a Public Policy Requirement. As such, in the context of the SERTP sponsors, the PPR is applicable to the Duke Energy utilities, Duke Energy Carolinas ("DEC") and Duke Energy Progress ("DEP"). The SERTP received a similar proposal to study possible transmission needs associated with NC HB951 in 2023 and 2024. Consistent with the SERTP sponsors' previous responses, NC HB951 does not create a regional transmission need.

Transmission needs associated with NC HB951 are being considered by DEC and DEP within the Carolinas Transmission Planning Collaborative ("CTPC") local transmission planning process. Utilization of the local transmission planning process is appropriate given that DEC/DEP's recently-approved Carbon Plan/Integrated Resource Plan ("CPIRP") does not include any resources located off-system. Any resulting local transmission plans have been and will be included in the SERTP process, including the 14 Red Zone Expansion Plan ("RZEP") 1.0 projects that were approved in the 2023-2033 Collaborative Transmission Plan as public policy projects consistent with Section 4.4.2.1 of Attachment N-1 of the Duke

For questions related to Transmission Needs Driven by Public Policy Requirements, please contact the SERTP via email at [southeasternrtp@southernco.com](mailto:southeasternrtp@southernco.com).



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utilities' OATT. These projects were identified as needed in order to interconnect at the fast pace and large volume of new renewables specified in the then-current CPIRP. Additionally, the 2024-2034 Collaborative Transmission Plan includes approval of seven new RZEP 2.0 projects as public policy projects.

SERTP met with SACE on March 10, 2025, to discuss the PPR and suggested that SACE's desire for SERTP to study certain transmission needs associated with off-system renewable resources could be submitted as an Economic Planning Study Request.

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