

Community Concerns: Rezoning the land where Duke Energy wants to build Hyco Gas Power Plants

The Person County Board of Commissioners should delay the vote on rezoning because we need:

- A chance for public input on the rezoning request and impact on farms, health, land, & water.
- Transparency about other industrial projects this would bring to the county, including Microsoft.
- Protections for our health and the economic stability of our community.

Threats to farms

- Person County **farms are being harmed** for industry that mostly serves urban areas, and now big tech companies like Microsoft.
 - To protect our rural community, we need transparency about industrial customers that would be served by this plant, especially **Microsoft**.
- **T-15 pipeline** would run through acres of farmland to supply the plants with methane gas. Pipelines damage soil and reduce crop yields. They destroy more profitable options for people, like crops, livestock, or solar.

Our health

- Duke's own analysis found air pollution from the plants could increase the nearby area's **high risk of cancer**. (The area has higher rates of stroke, cancer, chronic heart disease, & COPD than 70% of adults in the U.S.)
 - The area nearby has higher rates of infant & child mortality & low birthweight, compared to the national average. (97th percentile, 95th, & 90th, respectively).
- Duke plans to run the gas and coal plants at the same time. **Duke should pay for independent air monitoring for pollution**. We need to know **how they will protect local residents from high pollution** during that time.
- **Drinking water** in one neighboring area was already poisoned by coal ash. The T-15 pipeline construction & potential leaks could contaminate even more local wells.
- The T-15 pipeline to supply the plants is proposed to run next to **Woodland Elementary**. Pipeline leaks & accidents happen frequently in the US. Before rezoning, Duke needs to work with the pipeline builder to move the route so Woodland is out of the blast zone.
- We need to make sure Duke does not **use coal ash as fill during construction**, polluting groundwater.

Accountability to the Community

- **Duke's initial application was incomplete**. The community has had a chance to finally look at Duke's application. **However, now there is no public comment, no chance for informed community input**.
- **Rezoned too much land**: Duke does not have full state approval to build the second gas plant proposed. That land should not be rezoned without that approval.

Cost of Living + Jobs

- **This could raise our electric bills**: Duke passes on the cost of gas prices and expensive new plants to customers (which could include Piedmont customers)
 - Duke estimates their statewide plan to build new gas plants (including the Hyco plants & more) would increase rates from 39-73% for their customers.
- The two proposed gas plants would only employ 40-60 people as long as they operate.
- **Risky investment**: No guarantee that the gas power plants won't be abandoned early due to state law. HB951 requires Duke to reduce carbon emissions.
 - Duke's says the plants will eventually use hydrogen as fuel, but the technology to burn hydrogen and sources for hydrogen on an industrial scale **do not exist**.
 - We need more information on how Duke will ensure that Person isn't home to abandoned coal turbines, gas plants, and pipelines.

If you have questions, concerns, or want to learn more about protecting the community, reach out to Steph with Clean Water for NC at steph@cwfn.org or (609) 802-4126