



Henderson County Local Government
Public Information Office
www.hendersoncountync.org

Contact: Kathryn Finotti, PIO
(828) 694-5003 (O)
(828) 989-4737 (C)
pio@hendersoncountync.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Henderson County Hosts North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff

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In its continuing effort to establish the facts and engage the citizens of Henderson County regarding the proposed Duke Energy transmission line project, Henderson County will host a public information meeting with the North Carolina Utilities Commission public staff at Blue Ridge Community College's Auditorium on Thursday, September 3, 2015 beginning at 6:00 p.m. to answer questions from county residents regarding all relevant aspects of the "Foothills project".

County Manager Steve Wyatt:

County Government is concerned about the potential negative impact of the project while acknowledging the energy needs for a growing community. We are also concerned about the lack of concrete information amid rumor and speculation. While the county has no regulatory role in this process, what we can do is provide our elected leaders and county citizens with the opportunity to have their questions answered, and yes, to voice their concerns, to those that ultimately make the decision - the North Carolina Utilities Commission. This is a step in that process and there will be other steps that county government will be involved in as the process unfolds. Once the facts are established, the best decision for all of Henderson County can be made.

Utilities Commission Public Staff:

During the meeting, the Public Staff will pose questions to Duke Energy representatives concerning the process, criteria, and timeline used when siting transmission lines and the specific process Duke is using for the Foothills project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak for the purpose of raising relevant issues for consideration in the process. Organized groups are encouraged to designate speakers to provide comment so that as many communities and interests as possible can be heard. As this informational meeting pertains only to the portion of the project impacting western North Carolina, speakers will be limited to North Carolina residents only. "The Public Staff has received numerous inquiries from the general public and elected officials regarding the Foothills Transmission Line project and we hope that this informational meeting will serve to more fully educate both the public and our staff," said Christopher Ayers, Executive Director of the Public Staff. "While this is not an official hearing, we believe the exchange of information will address many questions and help bring greater clarity and transparency to the process."

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