



February 28, 2019

Dear Mayor Cook and Clemson City Council:

Thank you for your letter, dated Feb. 19, regarding the Duke Energy electrical substation planned to be built on university property adjacent to the former Armory building at the southern edge of the city and university. As you know, this Duke Energy project is designed to provide much-needed electricity capacity to meet the growing needs of the City of Clemson and the Town of Pendleton.

**OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT**

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As noted in your letter, the location selected for this substation was the result of the university and Duke Energy listening to – and learning from – community feedback around the original proposal that would have placed a combined heat and power (CHP) plant and a larger substation in the same general area, but closer to residential neighborhoods.

As a result of the feedback we received at that time, the university worked with Duke Energy and others on a plan to relocate the CHP to a more central campus location and to split the originally planned substation into two, smaller, facilities – one located within the South Carolina Botanical Gardens designed to serve the university and the second substation to serve the communities of Clemson and Pendleton, which is the subject of recent public attention.

This solution was designed specifically to minimize the impact on residents in this part of the community, while at the same time allowing for much-needed improvements to the electrical system in order to serve the growing needs of the region. Duke Energy thoroughly vetted possible locations in proximity to the existing transmission lines and the location chosen was by far the most feasible among the limited set of viable options available for this project.

The revised plan has been a matter of public record for nearly two years. In fact, City Council unanimously withdrew its formal opposition to the original plan in May 2017 in light of the current proposal. Since that time, university officials have provided multiple updates to their counterparts at the city regarding this project.

At the same time, the university is sensitive to the ongoing concerns of residents in the area closest to the planned substation. My understanding is that representatives from Duke Energy have spoken to residents and businesses in the immediate area of the planned substation to address those concerns and I believe that further interactions are being scheduled.

Likewise, the university is committed to working with Duke Energy so the substation has sufficient screening and landscaping to minimize the aesthetic impact of the facility. In fact, the university is on record as saying it seeks to make substantial aesthetic improvements to the entire property upon which the substation would be located that would both help conceal the substation and improve the overall appearance of the southern entrance to campus and the city.

Thanks again for taking the time to share your concerns. As always, the university values its partnership with the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Clements". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James P. Clements, Ph.D.
President