



# City of Clemson

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February 19th, 2019

President James Clements  
Clemson University  
201 Sikes Hall  
Clemson, SC 29634

Dear President Clements,

Just under two years ago, the City and University experienced an uncommon and uncomfortable situation when Clemson University announced plans to construct a new power and steam plant immediately east of the National Guard Building and adjacent to Vineyard Road. That plant site was directly adjacent to one of our community's older single-family neighborhoods. Local residents and the Clemson City Council had not been privy to the planning discussions about this plant location, and it became a contentious issue that caused harm to the relationship between campus and community. During this event, Clemson University ultimately agreed this was not a proper location for this plant and it was relocated to the Kite Hill site where it is currently under construction.

In follow-up discussions about the plant and substation, two new substation sites were determined. One substation would be created adjacent to the South Carolina Botanical Gardens (on the west side of Highway 76) to serve the Clemson campus and the former baseball field adjacent to the former Army Reserve building (between Pendleton Road and Highway 76) was selected for the second substation. Both of those sites are on land owned by Clemson University. Now, twenty-one months later, Duke Energy has developed illustrative plans that show the location of the second Duke Energy substation facility on Pendleton Road. Unfortunately, the City and University's urgent response to the original site plan has resulted in an unintended consequence involving this second facility, which was originally tied to the power plant site near Vineyard Road.

The ultimate result and current plans were developed in such a manner that persons and businesses near the Pendleton Road substation site were not adequately notified or included in the discussions about the relocation. As could have been predicted, these neighbors are very concerned about the new electrical substation and related issues of this site. Quite frankly, I believe that the "community emergency response" to the original power plant site overshadowed the secondary concern of the relocated electrical substation sites. In our joint discussions to correct the power and steam plant location, we lost focus of the potential impacts to the relocated substations. I would suggest that we collectively fumbled the ball on the electrical substation site issues.

At this time, we believe that the decision on this new site was not adequately vetted with those persons who will be directly impacted. Although this was not intentional by either of us, lack of planning and communications during the evaluation of a new substation site meant the site location decision was not completed in a public process. This process lacked transparency regarding the various options that were evaluated and those decisions which led to the two locations of the substations that are now being planned and scheduled for construction. Hopefully, we can do better with these types of communication issues in the future.



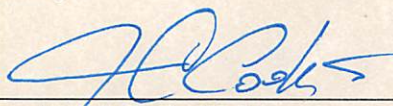
Where do those prior decisions leave us today? Like all issues of this magnitude, members of City Council have heard many negative comments and concerns about this new electrical substation from local residents. We share those concerns, and we believe that it is not too late to correct our prior actions of failing to clearly communicate about the proposed substation location. Simply stated, the Clemson City Council would like to have discussions about other possible locations where this new electrical substation could be sited. The substations have not been constructed at this time, so we believe that it is not too late to consider other possible options. Duke Energy will need to be consulted on other potential substation site alternatives because they are responsible for the effective and efficient delivery of electricity to the end users and consumers. Clemson University is critical to the decision because the two proposed sites are on land owned by the University. Clemson City Council members should also be a part of the decision-making process because our constituents deserve to know that the alternatives have been thoroughly evaluated.

We dislike opening up the proverbial "can of worms" that reassessment of this site review issue will bring to all three parties. Electric power substations do not have positive connotations in general, and they are viewed as a necessary evil of living our lives with the comfort of light and heat in our homes. However, we believe that a review of currently available alternatives will demonstrate that we have collectively evaluated our options and made an informed site location decision based upon said options. We understand that this review cannot be a long and time consuming exercise, as the growth on Duke's electric distribution system needs to be addressed. We are committed to spending the time in meeting with Duke Energy and Clemson University to take a second look at this decision on the substation sites that could be available. Whatever decision is made will be one that we will live with for the next several decades, so it is important that it be correct.

In summary, our request to you is fairly simple and straight forward. Will you work with the City Council and Duke Energy to place this substation site issue on hold for a period of time, which will allow us to conduct a joint review of potential alternatives that could be implemented in lieu of the present site at the old baseball field?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this issue in greater detail.

Sincerely,



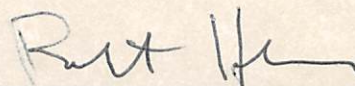
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James "J.C." Cook, III, Mayor



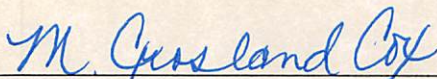
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Mark Cato, Council Member



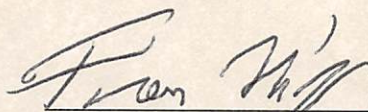
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Robert Halfacre, Council Member



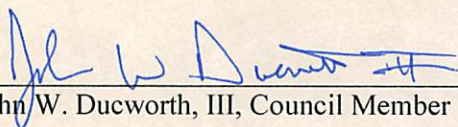
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Crosland "Crossie" Cox, Council Member



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Francis "Fran" McGuire, Council Member



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John W. Ducworth, III, Council Member



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Alesia Smith, Council Member