GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA **SESSION 2023**

 \mathbf{S} **SENATE BILL 678**

(4)

Agriculture, Energy, and Environment Committee Substitute Adopted 4/19/23 **Third Edition Engrossed 4/26/23**

House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/27/23

Short Tit	le: C	lean Energy/Other Changes.	(Public)
Sponsors	:		
Referred	to:		
		April 10, 2023	
PRO ENE NUC COM APPI REM SOL	VIDE TRGY, ALEAR IBUSTI LICATI TOVAL AR LEA eral Ass	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED (I) REDEFINE "RENEWABLE ENERGY" AS " THAT THE TERM INCLUDES NUCLEAR RESOLAND TO ELIMINATE LANGUAGE IMPEDING FACILITIES; (II) MODIFY CLOSURE DEADLINE ON RESIDUALS SURFACE IMPOUNDME ONS FEES FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION, REPAUNDER THE DAM SAFETY ACT; AND (IV) INCASING CAP. Dembly of North Carolina enacts: IOTE CLEAN ENERGY FION 1.(a) G.S. 62-133.8 reads as rewritten:	OURCES AND FUSION CPCN ISSUANCE FOR CS FOR CERTAIN COAL ENTS; (III) MODIFY AIR, ALTERATION, OR
"§ 62-13		Renewable Clean Energy and Energy Efficien	ncy Portfolio Standard
		PS). (CEPS).	
(a)		itions. – As used in this section:	
	(1)	"Combined heat and power system" means a system produce electricity or useful, measurable thermal cretail electric customer's facility.	
	(2)	"Demand-side management" means activities, undertaken by an electric power supplier or its cus of electricity use from peak to nonpeak deman management" includes, but is not limited to, load management and operating controls, direct load controls,	stomers to shift the timing d periods. "Demand-side anagement, electric system
	(3)	"Electric power supplier" means a public utility corporation, or a municipality that sells electric powers in the State.	, an electric membership
	(3a)	"Electricity demand reduction" means a meas electricity demand of a retail electric customer the real-time control of both the electric power supplicustomer, and measured in real time, using two-way that communicate on the basis of standards.	at is voluntary, under the lier and the retail electric



"Energy efficiency measure" means an equipment, physical, or program

change implemented after January 1, 2007, that results in less energy used to

perform the same function. "Energy efficiency measure" includes, but is not 1 2 limited to, energy produced from a combined heat and power system that uses 3 nonrenewable non-clean energy resources. "Energy efficiency measure" does 4 not include demand-side management. 5 "Fusion" means a reaction in which at least one heavier, more stable nucleus (4a) 6 is produced from two lighter, less stable nuclei, typically through high temperatures and pressures, emitting energy as a result. 7 8 "Fusion energy" means the product of fusion reactions inside a "fusion (4b) 9 device," used for the purpose of generating electricity or other commercially 10 usable forms of energy. 11 (5) "New renewable clean energy facility" means a renewable clean energy facility that either: 12 13 Was placed into service on or after January 1, 2007. a. Delivers or has delivered electric power to an electric power supplier 14 b. pursuant to a contract with NC GreenPower Corporation that was 15 entered into prior to January 1, 2007. 16 17 Is a hydroelectric power facility with a generation capacity of 10 c. 18 megawatts or less that delivers electric power to an electric power 19 supplier. 20 (6) "Renewable energy certificate" means a tradable instrument that is equal to 21 one megawatt hour of electricity or equivalent energy supplied by a renewable clean energy facility, new renewable clean energy facility, or reduced by 22 23 implementation of an energy efficiency measure that is used to track and 24 verify compliance with the requirements of this section as determined by the 25 Commission. A "renewable energy certificate" does not include the related 26 emission reductions, including, but not limited to, reductions of sulfur dioxide, 27 oxides of nitrogen, mercury, or carbon dioxide. 28 (7) "Renewable "Clean energy facility" means a facility, other than a 29 hydroelectric power facility with a generation capacity of more than 10 30 megawatts, that either: Generates electric power by the use of a renewable clean energy 31 a. 32 33 Generates useful, measurable combined heat and power derived from b. 34 a renewable-clean energy resource. 35 Is a solar thermal energy facility. 36 "Renewable-"Clean energy resource" means a solar electric, solar thermal, (8) 37 wind, hydropower, geothermal, or ocean current or wave energy resource; a 38 biomass resource, including agricultural waste, animal waste, wood waste, 39 spent pulping liquors, combustible residues, combustible liquids, combustible 40 gases, energy crops, or landfill methane; waste heat derived from a renewable clean energy resource and used to produce electricity or useful, measurable 41 42 thermal energy at a retail electric customer's facility; nuclear energy resources, 43 including an uprate to a nuclear energy facility; fusion energy; or hydrogen derived from a renewable clean energy resource. "Renewable "Clean energy 44 45 resource" does not include peat, a fossil fuel, or nuclear energy resource.or a 46 fossil fuel. 47 Renewable Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Standards (REPS) (CEPS) for (b) 48 Electric Public Utilities. -49 Each electric public utility in the State shall be subject to a Renewable-Clean (1) 50 Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) CEPS according to 51 the following schedule:

			S 48810H 2020
1			
2	Cale	endar Year	REPS CEPS Requirement
3		2012	3% of 2011 North Carolina retail sales
4		2015	6% of 2014 North Carolina retail sales
5		2018	10% of 2017 North Carolina retail sales
6		2021 and thereaft	er 12.5% of 2020 North Carolina retail sales
7	(2) An 6	electric public utilit	y may meet the requirements of this section by any one
8		nore of the followin	
9	a.		c power at a new renewable clean energy facility.
10	b.		e-clean energy resource to generate electric power at a
11	0.		ity other than the generation of electric power from
12		_	yed from the combustion of fossil fuel.
13	c.		consumption through the implementation of an energy
14	C.		sure; provided, however, an electric public utility
15		•	ovisions of this subsection may meet up to twenty-five
16		J 1	of the requirements of this section through savings due
17		•	tion of energy efficiency measures. Beginning in
18		-	021 and each year thereafter, an electric public utility
		•	•
19		•	forty percent (40%) of the requirements of this section
20	ا.		due to implementation of energy efficiency measures.
21	d.		c power from a new renewable clean energy facility.
22		-	purchased from a new renewable clean energy facility
23			the geographic boundaries of the State shall meet the
24		•	f this section if the electric power is delivered to a
25			at provides electric power to retail electric customers
26		-	vided, however, the electric public utility shall not sell
27			nergy certificates created pursuant to this paragraph to
28		another electric	1
29	e.		vable energy certificates derived from in-State or
30			renewable <u>clean</u> energy facilities. Certificates derived
31			te new renewable <u>clean</u> energy facilities shall not be
32			ore than twenty-five percent (25%) of the requirements
33			provided that this limitation shall not apply to an
34			utility with less than 150,000 North Carolina retail
35		=	stomers as of December 31, 2006.
36	f.	-	wer that is supplied by a new renewable clean energy
37			d due to the implementation of an energy efficiency
38		measure that ex	ceeds the requirements of this section for any calendar
39		•	it towards the requirements of this section in the
40		following caler	ndar year or sell the associated renewable energy
41		certificates.	
42	g.	Electricity dema	and reduction.
43	(c) Renewable	-Clean Energy and	d Energy Efficiency Standards (REPS) (CEPS) for
44	Electric Membership C		
45	(1) Eacl	h electric membersł	nip corporation or municipality that sells electric power
46	to re	etail electric power	customers in the State shall be subject to a Renewable
47		-	ergy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) (CEPS)
48		ording to the follow	
49		Č	-
50	Cale	endar Year	REPS CEPS Requirement
51	,	2012	3% of 2011 North Carolina retail sales

	General Assemb	лу ОГТ	torur Caronna Session 2025
1			2015 6% of 2014 North Carolina retail sales
2			2018 and thereafter 10% of 2017 North Carolina retail sales
3	(2)	An e	lectric membership corporation or municipality may meet the
4		requir	ements of this section by any one or more of the following:
5		a.	Generate electric power at a new renewable clean energy facility.
6		b.	Reduce energy consumption through the implementation of
7			demand-side management or energy efficiency measures.
8		c.	Purchase electric power from a renewable clean energy facility or a
9			hydroelectric power facility, provided that no more than thirty percent
10			(30%) of the requirements of this section may be met with
11			hydroelectric power, including allocations made by the Southeastern
12			Power Administration.
13		d.	Purchase renewable energy certificates derived from in-State or
14			out-of-state renewable clean energy facilities. An electric power
15			supplier subject to the requirements of this subsection may use
16			certificates derived from out-of-state renewable-clean energy facilities
17			to meet no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the requirements
18			of this section.
19		e.	Acquire all or part of its electric power through a wholesale purchase
20			power agreement with a wholesale supplier of electric power whose
21			portfolio of supply and demand options meets the requirements of this
22			section.
23		f.	Use electric power that is supplied by a new renewable clean energy
24			facility or saved due to the implementation of demand-side
25			management or energy efficiency measures that exceeds the
26			requirements of this section for any calendar year as a credit towards
27			the requirements of this section in the following calendar year or sell
28			the associated renewable energy certificates.
• •			

g. Electricity demand reduction.

(d) Compliance With REPS CEPS Requirement Through Use of Solar Energy Resources. - For calendar year 2018 and for each calendar year thereafter, at least two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) of the total electric power in kilowatt hours sold to retail electric customers in the State, or an equivalent amount of energy, shall be supplied by a combination of new solar electric facilities and new metered solar thermal energy facilities that use one or more of the following applications: solar hot water, solar absorption cooling, solar dehumidification, solar thermally driven refrigeration, and solar industrial process heat. The terms of any contract entered into between an electric power supplier and a new solar electric facility or new metered solar thermal energy facility shall be of sufficient length to stimulate development of solar energy; provided, the Commission shall develop a procedure to determine if an electric power supplier is in compliance with the provisions of this subsection if a new solar electric facility or a new metered solar thermal energy facility fails to meet the terms of its contract with the electric power supplier. As used in this subsection, "new" means a facility that was first placed into service on or after January 1, 2007. The electric power suppliers shall comply with the requirements of this subsection according to the following schedule:

45		Requirement for Solar
46	Calendar Year	Energy Resources
47	2010	0.02%
48	2012	0.07%
49	2015	0.14%
50	2018	0.20%

29

30

31 32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41 42

43

Compliance With REPS-CEPS Requirement Through Use of Swine Waste Resources. (e) - For calendar year 2018 and for each calendar year thereafter, at least two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) of the total electric power in kilowatt hours sold to retail electric customers in the State shall be supplied, or contracted for supply in each year, by swine waste. The electric power suppliers, in the aggregate, shall comply with the requirements of this subsection according to the following schedule:

7 8

14

15

16 17

18

	Requirement for Swine
Calendar Year	Waste Resources
2012	0.07%
2015	0.14%
2018	0.20%

Compliance With REPS CEPS Requirement Through Use of Poultry Waste (f) Resources. – For calendar year 2014 and for each calendar year thereafter, at least 900,000 megawatt hours of the total electric power sold to retail electric customers in the State or an equivalent amount of energy shall be supplied, or contracted for supply in each year, by poultry waste combined with wood shavings, straw, rice hulls, or other bedding material. The electric power suppliers, in the aggregate, shall comply with the requirements of this subsection according to the following schedule:

19 20 21

39

40

41 42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

	Requirement for Poultry
Calendar Year	Waste Resources
2012	170,000 megawatt hours
2013	700,000 megawatt hours
2014	900,000 megawatt hours

Control of Emissions. - As used in this subsection, Best Available Control Technology (BACT) means an emissions limitation based on the maximum degree a reduction in the emission of air pollutants that is achievable for a facility, taking into account energy, environmental, and economic impacts and other costs. A biomass combustion process at any new renewable-clean energy facility that delivers electric power to an electric power supplier shall meet BACT. The Environmental Management Commission shall determine on a case-by-case basis the BACT for a facility that would not otherwise be required to comply with BACT pursuant to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) emissions program. The Environmental Management Commission may adopt rules to implement this subsection. In adopting rules, the Environmental Management Commission shall take into account cumulative and secondary impacts associated with the concentration of biomass facilities in close proximity to one another. In adopting rules the Environmental Management Commission shall provide for the manner in which a facility that would not otherwise be required to comply with BACT pursuant to the PSD emissions programs shall meet the BACT requirement. This subsection shall not apply to a facility that qualifies as a new renewable clean energy facility under sub-subdivision b. of subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section.

. . .

- Adoption of Rules. The Commission shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section. In developing rules, the Commission shall:
 - Provide for the monitoring of compliance with and enforcement of the (1) requirements of this section.
 - Include a procedure to modify or delay the provisions of subsections (b), (c), (2) (d), (e), and (f) of this section in whole or in part if the Commission determines that it is in the public interest to do so. The procedure adopted pursuant to this subdivision shall include a requirement that the electric power supplier

demonstrate that it made a reasonable effort to meet the requirements set out in this section.

- 4 5 6
- (3) Ensure that energy credited toward compliance with the provisions of this section not be credited toward any other purpose, including another renewable clean energy portfolio standard or voluntary renewable clean energy purchase program in this State or any other state.

7 8 9

10

11

12

Establish standards for interconnection of renewable clean energy facilities (4) and other nonutility-owned generation with a generation capacity of 10 megawatts or less to an electric public utility's distribution system; provided, however, that the Commission shall adopt, if appropriate, federal interconnection standards. The standards adopted pursuant to this subdivision shall include an expedited review process for swine and poultry waste to energy projects of two megawatts (MW) or less and other measures necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of subsections (e) and (f) of this section.

13 14 15

16

17

Ensure that the owner and operator of each renewable-clean energy facility (5) that delivers electric power to an electric power supplier is in substantial compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations, and rules for the protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources.

18 19 20

21

(6) Consider whether it is in the public interest to adopt rules for electric public utilities for net metering of renewable clean energy facilities with a generation capacity of one megawatt or less.

22 23

24

25

Develop procedures to track and account for renewable energy certificates, (7) including ownership of renewable energy certificates that are derived from a customer owned renewable clean energy facility as a result of any action by a customer of an electric power supplier that is independent of a program sponsored by the electric power supplier.

26 27 28

(j) Repealed by Session Laws 2021-23, s. 16, effective May 17, 2021.

33

Tracking of Renewable Energy Certificates. - No later than July 1, 2010, the (k) Commission shall develop, implement, and maintain an Internet Web site for the online tracking of renewable energy certificates in order to verify the compliance of electric power suppliers with the REPS-CEPS requirements of this section and to facilitate the establishment of a market for the purchase and sale of renewable energy certificates.

The owner, including an electric power supplier, of each renewable clean energy facility or new renewable clean energy facility, whether or not required to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to G.S. 62-110.1, that intends for renewable energy certificates it earns to be eligible for use by an electric power supplier to comply with G.S. 62-133.8 shall register the facility with the Commission. Such an owner shall file a registration statement in the form prescribed by the Commission and remit to the Commission the fee required pursuant to G.S. 62-300(a)(16)."

41 42

40

SECTION 1.(b) G.S. 62-2(a) reads as rewritten: "§ 62-2. Declaration of policy.

Upon investigation, it has been determined that the rates, services and operations of public utilities as defined herein, are affected with the public interest and that the availability of an adequate and reliable supply of electric power and natural gas to the people, economy and government of North Carolina is a matter of public policy. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of North Carolina:

47 48 49

50

51

(10)To promote the development of renewable clean energy and energy efficiency through the implementation of a Renewable Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) (CEPS) that will do all of the following:

Diversify the resources used to reliably meet the energy needs of a. consumers in the State.

4

Provide greater energy security through the use of indigenous energy b. resources available within the State. Encourage private investment in renewable clean energy and energy c.

5 6

efficiency.

7 8

Provide improved air quality and other benefits to energy consumers d. and citizens of the State."

9 10

11

12 13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32 33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41 42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

SECTION 1.(c) G.S. 62-110.8 reads as rewritten:

"§ 62-110.8. Competitive procurement of renewable clean energy.

- Each electric public utility shall file for Commission approval a program for the competitive procurement of energy and capacity from renewable-clean energy facilities with the purpose of adding renewable clean energy to the State's generation portfolio in a manner that allows the State's electric public utilities to continue to reliably and cost-effectively serve customers' future energy needs. Renewable Clean energy facilities eligible to participate in the competitive procurement shall include those facilities that use renewable clean energy resources identified in G.S. 62-133.8(a)(8) but shall be limited to facilities with a nameplate capacity rating of 80 megawatts (MW) or less that are placed in service after the date of the electric public utility's initial competitive procurement. Subject to the limitations set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the electric public utilities shall issue requests for proposals to procure and shall procure, energy and capacity from renewable clean energy facilities in the aggregate amount of 2,660 megawatts (MW), and the total amount shall be reasonably allocated over a term of 45 months beginning when the Commission approves the program. The Commission shall require the additional competitive procurement of renewable clean energy capacity by the electric public utilities in an amount that includes all of the following: (i) any unawarded portion of the initial competitive procurement required by this subsection; (ii) any deficit in renewable clean energy capacity identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section; and (iii) any capacity reallocated pursuant to G.S. 62-159.2.
- Electric public utilities may jointly or individually implement the aggregate competitive procurement requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this section and may satisfy such requirements for the procurement of renewable-clean energy capacity to be supplied by renewable clean energy facilities through any of the following: (i) renewable clean energy facilities to be acquired from third parties and subsequently owned and operated by the soliciting public utility or utilities; (ii) renewable clean energy facilities to be constructed, owned, and operated by the soliciting public utility or utilities subject to the limitations of subdivision (4) of this subsection; or (iii) the purchase of renewable clean energy, capacity, and environmental and renewable clean attributes from renewable clean energy facilities owned and operated by third parties that commit to allow the procuring public utility rights to dispatch, operate, and control the solicited renewable clean energy facilities in the same manner as the utility's own generating resources. Procured renewable clean energy capacity, as provided for in this section, shall be subject to the following limitations:
 - If prior to the end of the initial 45-month competitive procurement period the (1) public utilities subject to this section have executed power purchase agreements and interconnection agreements for renewable clean energy capacity within their balancing authority areas that are not subject to economic dispatch or curtailment and were not procured pursuant to G.S. 62-159.2 having an aggregate capacity in excess of 3,500 megawatts (MW), the Commission shall reduce the competitive procurement aggregate amount by the amount of such exceedance. If the aggregate capacity of such renewable clean energy facilities is less than 3,500 megawatts (MW) at the end of the initial 45-month competitive procurement period, the Commission shall

1

require the electric public utilities to conduct an additional competitive procurement in the amount of such deficit.

4 5

6 7

8

9

No more than thirty percent (30%) of an electric public utility's competitive (4) procurement requirement may be satisfied through the utility's own development of renewable clean energy facilities offered by the electric public utility or any subsidiary of the electric public utility that is located within the electric public utility's service territory. This limitation shall not apply to any renewable clean energy facilities acquired by an electric public utility that are selected through the competitive procurement and are located within the electric public utility's service territory.

10 11 12

13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20

21

Subject to the aggregate competitive procurement requirements established by this (c) section, the electric public utilities shall have the authority to determine the location and allocated amount of the competitive procurement within their respective balancing authority areas, whether located inside or outside the geographic boundaries of the State, taking into consideration (i) the State's desire to foster diversification of siting of renewable-clean energy resources throughout the State; (ii) the efficiency and reliability impacts of siting of additional renewable clean energy facilities in each public utility's service territory; and (iii) the potential for increased delivered cost to a public utility's customers as a result of siting additional renewable clean energy facilities in a public utility's service territory, including additional costs of ancillary services that may be imposed due to the operational or locational characteristics of a specific renewable clean energy resource technology, such as nondispatchability, unreliability of availability, and creation or exacerbation of system congestion that may increase redispatch costs.

27

28

29

30

The competitive procurement of renewable clean energy capacity established pursuant to this section shall be independently administered by a third-party entity to be approved by the Commission. The third-party entity shall develop and publish the methodology used to evaluate responses received pursuant to a competitive procurement solicitation and to ensure that all responses are treated equitably. All reasonable and prudent administrative and related expenses incurred to implement this subsection shall be recovered from market participants through administrative fees levied upon those that participate in the competitive bidding process, as approved by the Commission.

31 32 33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41 42

An electric public utility shall be authorized to recover the costs of all purchases of (g) energy, capacity, and environmental and renewable-clean attributes from third-party renewable clean energy facilities and to recover the authorized revenue of any utility-owned assets that are procured pursuant to this section through an annual rider approved by the Commission and reviewed annually. Provided it is in the public interest, the authorized revenue for any renewable <u>clean</u> energy facilities owned by an electric public utility may be calculated on a market basis in lieu of cost-of-service based recovery, using data from the applicable competitive procurement to determine the market price in accordance with the methodology established by the Commission pursuant to subsection (h) of this section. The annual increase in the aggregate amount of these costs that are recoverable by an electric public utility pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed one percent (1%) of the electric public utility's total North Carolina retail jurisdictional gross revenues for the preceding calendar year.

43 44 45

The Commission shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section, as (h) follows:

46 47 48

(1) Oversight of the competitive procurement program.

49 50

To provide for a waiver of regulatory conditions or code of conduct (2) requirements that would unreasonably restrict a public utility or its affiliates from participating in the competitive procurement process, unless the

General Assembly Of North Carolina Commission finds that such a waiver would not hold the public utility's 1 2 customers harmless. 3 (3) Establishment of a procedure for expedited review and approval of certificates 4 of public convenience and necessity, or the transfer thereof, for renewable 5 clean energy facilities owned by the public utility and procured pursuant to 6 this section. The Commission shall issue an order not later than 30 days after 7 a petition for a certificate is filed by the public utility. 8 (4) Establishment of a methodology to allow an electric public utility to recover 9 its costs pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. 10 Repealed by Session Laws 2021-165, s. 2(b), effective October 13, 2021. (5) 11 (i) The requirements of this section shall not apply to an electric public utility serving fewer than 150,000 North Carolina retail jurisdictional customers as of January 1, 2017." 12 13 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 62-126.4 reads as rewritten: 14 "§ 62-126.4. Commission to establish net metering rates. Each electric public utility shall file for Commission approval revised net metering 15 rates for electric customers that (i) own a renewable-clean energy facility for that person's own 16 17 primary use or (ii) are customer generator lessees. 18 19 (c) Until the rates have been approved by the Commission as required by this section, the 20 rate shall be the applicable net metering rate in place at the time the facility interconnects. Retail customers that own and install an on-site renewable clean energy facility and interconnect to the 21 22 grid prior to the date the Commission approves new metering rates may elect to continue net 23 metering under the net metering rate in effect at the time of interconnection until January 1, 24 2027." 25 **SECTION 1.(f)** G.S. 62-133.2 reads as rewritten: 26 "§ 62-133.2. Fuel and fuel-related charge adjustments for electric utilities. 27 The Commission shall permit an electric public utility that generates electric power 28 by fossil fuel or nuclear fuel to charge an increment or decrement as a rider to its rates for changes 29 in the cost of fuel and fuel-related costs used in providing its North Carolina customers with 30 electricity from the cost of fuel and fuel-related costs established in the electric public utility's 31 previous general rate case on the basis of cost per kilowatt hour. 32 As used in this section, "cost of fuel and fuel-related costs" means all of the following: 33 34 (6) Except for those costs recovered pursuant to G.S. 62-133.8(h), the total 35 delivered costs of all purchases of power from renewable-clean energy 36 facilities and new renewable-clean energy facilities pursuant to G.S. 62-133.8 or to comply with any federal mandate that is similar to the requirements of 37 38 subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of G.S. 62-133.8. 39 40 (11)All nonadministrative costs related to the renewable clean energy procurement 41 pursuant to G.S. 62-159.2 not recovered from the program participants." 42 43 **SECTION 1.(g)** G.S. 62-133.16 reads as rewritten: "§ 62-133.16. Performance-based regulation authorized. 44 45 46 (d) Commission Action on Application. – 47

- (2) In reviewing any such PBR application under this section, the Commission may consider whether the PBR application:
 - Encourages peak load reduction or efficient use of the system. a.
 - b. Encourages utility-scale renewable-clean energy and storage.

48

49

50

3

4

5

6

7 8

9

10 11

12 13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41 42

43

44

45 46

47

48

49

50

51

SECTION 1.(h) G.S. 62-133.20 reads as rewritten:

"§ 62-133.20. Cleanfields renewable clean energy demonstration parks.

- Criteria for Designation. A parcel or tract of land, or any combination of contiguous parcels or tracts of land, that meet all of the following criteria may be designated as a cleanfields renewable clean energy demonstration park:
 - **(7)** The creation of the park is for the purpose of featuring clean-energy facilities, laboratories, and companies, thereby spurring economic growth by attracting renewable-clean energy and alternative fuel industries.
 - (8) The development plan for the park must include at least three renewable clean energy or alternative fuel facilities.
 - The development plan for the park must include a biomass renewable clean (9) energy facility that utilizes refuse derived fuel, including yard waste, wood waste, and waste generated from construction and demolition, but not including wood directly derived from whole trees, as the primary source for generating energy. The refuse derived fuel shall undergo an enhanced recycling process before being utilized by the biomass renewable clean energy facility.
 - (10)The initial biomass renewable clean energy facility will not be a major source, as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 70.2 (July 1, 2009 edition), for air quality purposes. The biomass renewable clean energy facility will remain in compliance with all applicable State and federal emissions requirements throughout its operating life.
- Certification. The owner of a parcel or tract of land that seeks to establish a cleanfields renewable-clean energy demonstration park shall submit to the Secretary of State an application for designation. The Secretary shall examine the application and may request any additional information from the owner of the parcel or tract of land or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources needed to verify that the project meets all of the criteria for designation. The Secretary may rely on certifications provided by the owner or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that the criteria are met. If the Secretary determines that the project meets all of the criteria, the Secretary shall make and issue a certificate designating the parcel or tract of land as a cleanfields renewable clean energy demonstration park to the owner and shall file and record the application and certificate in an appropriate book of record. The parcel or tract of land shall be designated as a cleanfields renewable clean energy demonstration park on the date the certificate is filed and recorded.
- Renewable Clean Energy Generation. The definitions in G.S. 62-133.8 apply to this section. If the Utilities Commission determines that a biomass renewable-clean energy facility located in the cleanfields renewable-clean energy demonstration park is a new renewable-clean energy facility, the Commission shall assign triple credit to any electric power or renewable energy certificates generated from renewable clean energy resources at the biomass renewable clean energy facility that are purchased by an electric power supplier for the purposes of compliance with G.S. 62-133.8. The additional credits assigned to the first 10 megawatts of biomass renewable clean energy facility generation capacity shall be eligible for use to meet the requirements of G.S. 62-133.8(f). The additional credits assigned to the first 10 megawatts of biomass renewable-clean energy facility generation capacity shall first be used to satisfy the requirements of G.S. 62-133.8(f). Only when the requirements of G.S. 62-133.8(f) are met, shall the additional credits assigned to the first 10 megawatts of biomass renewable clean energy facility generation capacity be utilized to comply with G.S. 62-133.8(b) and (c). The triple credit shall apply only to the first 20 megawatts of biomass renewable clean energy facility generation capacity located in all cleanfields renewable clean energy demonstration parks in the State."

SECTION 1.(i) G.S. 62-153 reads as rewritten:

"§ 62-153. Contracts of public utilities with certain companies and for services.

.

(b) No public utility shall pay any fees, commissions or compensation of any description whatsoever to any affiliated or subsidiary holding, managing, operating, constructing, engineering, financing or purchasing company or agency for services rendered or to be rendered without first filing copies of all proposed agreements and contracts with the Commission and obtaining its approval. Provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to (i) motor carriers of passengers or (ii) power purchase agreements entered into pursuant to the competitive renewable clean energy procurement process established pursuant to G.S. 62-110.8."

SECTION 1.(j) G.S. 62-156 reads as rewritten:

"§ 62-156. Power sales by small power producers to public utilities.

..

(c) Rates to be paid by electric public utilities to small power producers not eligible for the utility's standard contract pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be established through good-faith negotiations between the utility and small power producer, subject to the Commission's oversight as required by law. In establishing rates for purchases from such small power producers, the utility shall design rates consistent with the most recent Commission-approved avoided cost methodology for a fixed five-year term. Rates for such purchases shall take into account factors related to the individual characteristics of the small power producer, as well as the factors identified in subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (b) of this section. Notwithstanding this subsection, small power producers that produce electric energy primarily by the use of any of the following renewable clean energy resources may negotiate for a fixed-term contract that exceeds five years: (i) swine or poultry waste; (ii) hydropower, if the hydroelectric power facility total capacity is equal to or less than five megawatts (MW); or (iii) landfill gas, manure digester gas, agricultural waste digester gas, sewage digester gas, or sewer sludge digester gas.

...."

SECTION 1.(k) G.S. 62-159.2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 62-159.2. Direct renewable <u>clean</u> energy procurement for major military installations, public universities, and large customers.

- (b) Each public utility's program application required by this section shall provide standard contract terms and conditions for participating customers and for renewable-clean energy suppliers from which the electric public utility procures energy and capacity on behalf of the participating customer. The application shall allow eligible customers to select the new renewable-clean energy facility from which the electric public utility shall procure energy and capacity. The standard terms and conditions available to renewable-clean energy suppliers shall provide a range of terms, between two years and 20 years, from which the participating customer may elect. Eligible customers shall be allowed to negotiate with renewable-clean energy suppliers regarding price terms.
- (c) Each contracted amount of capacity shall be limited to no more than one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the maximum annual peak demand of the eligible customer premises. Each public utility shall establish reasonable credit requirements for financial assurance for eligible customers that are consistent with the Uniform Commercial Code of North Carolina. Major military installations and The University of North Carolina are exempt from the financial assurance requirements of this section. The requirements of this subsection shall apply except as otherwise provided by law.
- (d) The program shall be offered by the electric public utilities subject to this section for a period of five years or until December 31, 2022, whichever is later, and shall not exceed a combined 600 megawatts (MW) of total capacity. For the public utilities subject to this section,

where a major military installation is located within its Commission-assigned service territory, at least 100 megawatts (MW) of new renewable clean energy facility capacity offered under the program shall be reserved for participation by major military installations. At least 250 megawatts (MW) of new renewable clean energy facility capacity offered under the programs shall also be reserved for participation by The University of North Carolina. Major military installations and The University of North Carolina must fully subscribe to all their allocations prior to December 31, 2020, or a period of no more than three years after approval of the program, whichever is later. If any portion of total capacity set aside to major military installations or The University of North Carolina is not used, it shall be reallocated for use by any eligible program participant. If any portion of the 600 megawatts (MW) of renewable clean energy capacity provided for in this section is not awarded prior to the expiration of the program, it shall be reallocated to and included in a competitive procurement in accordance with G.S. 62-110.8(a). The requirements of this subsection shall apply except as otherwise provided by law.

(e) In addition to the participating customer's normal retail bill, the total cost of any renewable clean energy and capacity procured by or provided by the electric public utility for the benefit of the program customer shall be paid by that customer. The electric public utility shall pay the owner of the renewable clean energy facility which provided the electricity. The program customer shall receive a bill credit for the energy as determined by the Commission; provided, however, that the bill credit shall not exceed utility's avoided cost. The Commission shall ensure that all other customers are held neutral, neither advantaged nor disadvantaged, from the impact of the renewable clean electricity procured on behalf of the program customer."

SECTION 1.(*l*) G.S. 62-300 reads as rewritten:

"§ 62-300. Particular fees and charges fixed; payment.

- (a) The Commission shall receive and collect the following fees and charges in accordance with the classification of utilities as provided in rules and regulations of the Commission, and no others:
 - (16) Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) with each application for a certificate of authority to engage in business as an electric generator lessor filed pursuant to G.S. 62-126.7 or each registration statement for a renewable clean energy facility or new renewable clean energy facility filed pursuant to G.S. 62-133.8(*l*).

SECTION 1.(m) G.S. 143-213 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-213. Definitions.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms as used in this Article and Articles 21A and 21B of this Chapter are defined as follows:

(12a) The term "farm digester system" means a system, including all associated equipment and lagoon covers, by which gases are collected and processed from an animal waste management system for the digestion of animal biomass for use as a renewable clean energy resource. A farm digester system shall be considered an agricultural feedlot activity within the meaning of "animal operation" and shall also be considered a part of an "animal waste management system" as those terms are defined in G.S. 143-215.10B.

(14a) The term <u>"renewable-"clean</u> animal biomass energy resource" means any renewable <u>clean</u> energy resource, as defined in G.S. 62-133.8(a)(8), that utilizes animal waste as a biomass resource, including a farm digester system.

SECTION 1.(n) G.S. 143B-282 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-282. Environmental Management Commission – creation; powers and duties.

(a) There is hereby created the Environmental Management Commission of the Department of Environmental Quality with the power and duty to promulgate rules to be followed in the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the water and air resources of the State.

_

 (6) The Commission may establish a procedure for evaluating renewable-clean energy technologies that are, or are proposed to be, employed as part of a renewable-clean energy facility, as defined in G.S. 62-133.8; establish standards to ensure that renewable clean energy technologies do not harm the environment, natural resources, cultural resources, or public health, safety, or welfare of the State; and, to the extent that there is not an environmental regulatory program, establish an environmental regulatory program to implement these protective standards.

SECTION 1.(o) G.S. 160A-272 reads as rewritten:

"§ 160A-272. Lease or rental of property.

.

...."

- (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b1) of this section, the council may approve a lease without treating that lease as a sale of property for any of the following reasons:
 - (1) For the siting and operation of a renewable clean energy facility, as that term is defined in G.S. 62-133.8(a)(7), for a term up to 25 years.

....'

SECTION 1.(p) G.S. 160D-1320 reads as rewritten:

"§ 160D-1320. Program to finance energy improvements.

- (a) Purpose. The General Assembly finds it is in the best interest of the citizens of North Carolina to promote and encourage renewable clean energy and energy efficiency within the State in order to conserve energy, promote economic competitiveness, and expand employment in the State. The General Assembly also finds that a local government has an integral role in furthering this purpose by promoting and encouraging renewable clean energy and energy efficiency within the local government's territorial jurisdiction. In furtherance of this purpose, a local government may establish a program to finance the purchase and installation of distributed generation renewable clean energy sources or energy efficiency improvements that are permanently affixed to residential, commercial, or other real property.
- (b) Financing Assistance. A local government may establish a revolving loan fund and a loan loss reserve fund for the purpose of financing or assisting in the financing of the purchase and installation of distributed generation renewable clean energy sources or energy efficiency improvements that are permanently fixed to residential, commercial, or other real property. A local government may establish other local government energy efficiency and distributed generation renewable clean energy source finance programs funded through federal grants. A local government may use State and federal grants and loans and its general revenue for this financing. The annual interest rate charged for the use of funds from the revolving fund may not exceed eight percent (8%) per annum, excluding other fees for loan application review and origination. The term of any loan originated under this section may not be greater than 20 years.
- (c) Definition. As used in this Article, <u>"renewable-"clean energy</u> source" has the same meaning as <u>"renewable-"clean energy</u> resource" in G.S. 62-133.8."

SECTION 2. G.S. 62-110.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 62-110.1. Certificate for construction of generating facility; analysis of long-range needs for expansion of facilities; ongoing review of construction costs; inclusion of approved construction costs in rates.

50 .

- - ..

- (e) As a condition for receiving a certificate, the applicant shall file an estimate of construction costs in such detail as the Commission may require. The Commission shall hold a public hearing on each application and no certificate shall be granted unless the Commission has approved the estimated construction costs and made a finding that construction will be consistent with the Commission's plan for expansion of electric generating capacity. A certificate for the construction of a coal or nuclear any electric generating facility shall be granted only if the applicant demonstrates and the Commission finds that energy efficiency measures; demand-side management; renewable clean energy resource generation; combined heat and power generation; or any combination thereof, would not establish or maintain a more cost-effective and reliable generation system and that the construction and operation of the facility is in the public interest. In making its determination, the Commission shall consider resource and fuel diversity and reasonably anticipated future operating costs. Once the Commission grants a certificate, no public utility shall cancel construction of a generating unit or facility without approval from the Commission based upon a finding that the construction is no longer in the public interest.
- (g) The certification requirements of this section shall not apply to (i) a nonutility-owned generating facility fueled by renewable clean energy resources under two megawatts in capacity; (ii) to persons who construct an electric generating facility primarily for that person's own use and not for the primary purpose of producing electricity, heat, or steam for sale to or for the public for compensation; or (iii) a solar energy facility or a community solar energy facility, as provided by and subject to the limitations of Article 6B of this Chapter. However, such persons shall be required to report the proposed construction of the facility and the completion of the facility to the Commission and the interconnecting public utility. Such reports shall be for informational purposes only and shall not require action by the Commission or the Public Staff.
 - (h) Expired pursuant to its own terms, effective January 1, 2011."

PART II. MODIFICATIONS TO CLOSURE DEADLINES FOR CERTAIN COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS

SECTION 3.(a) G.S. 130A-309.214 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-309.214. Closure of coal combustion residuals surface impoundments.

- (a) An owner of a coal combustion residuals surface impoundment shall submit a proposed Coal Combustion Residuals Surface Impoundment Closure Plan for the Department's approval. If corrective action to restore groundwater has not been completed pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 130A-309.211(b), the proposed closure plan shall include provisions for completion of activities to restore groundwater in conformance with the requirements of Subchapter L of Chapter 2 of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code. In addition, the following requirements, at a minimum, shall apply to such plans:
 - (2) Intermediate-risk Except as otherwise provided by law, intermediate-risk impoundments shall be closed as soon as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2024. A proposed closure plan for such impoundments must be submitted as soon as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2019. At a minimum, such impoundments shall be dewatered, and the owner of an impoundment shall close the impoundment in any manner allowed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or, if applicable, as provided in G.S. 130A-309.216.
 - (3) Low risk Except as otherwise provided by law, low-risk impoundments shall be closed as soon as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2029. A proposed closure plan for such impoundments must be submitted as soon as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2019. At a minimum, (i)

impoundments located in whole above the seasonal high groundwater table shall be dewatered; (ii) impoundments located in whole or in part beneath the seasonal high groundwater table shall be dewatered to the maximum extent practicable; and (iii) at the election of the Department, the owner of an impoundment shall either:

 SECTION 3.(b) The following coal combustion residuals surface impoundments shall be closed as soon as practicable but not later than the following dates, except as otherwise preempted by the requirements of federal law, and notwithstanding any applicable deadlines established in State law, including (i) G.S. 130A-309.214, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, (ii) G.S. 130A-309.216, and (iii) S.L. 2014-122 and S.L. 2016-95:

- Steam Station owned and operated by Duke Energy Progress, and located in Wayne County, December 31, 2035.

 (2) Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the Cape Fear Steam Station owned and operated by Duke Energy Progress, and located in

Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the H.F. Lee

Chatham County, December 31, 2035.

(3) Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the Allen Steam Station owned and operated by Duke Energy Carolinas, and located in Gaston

County, December 31, 2038.

(4) Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the Belews Creek Steam Station owned and operated by Duke Energy Carolinas, and located in Stokes County, December 31, 2034.

(5) Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the Buck Steam Station owned and operated by Duke Energy Carolinas, and located in Rowan County, December 31, 2035.

(6) Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the Rogers Energy Complex (formerly Cliffside Steam Station) owned and operated by Duke Energy Carolinas, and located in Cleveland County and Rutherford County, December 31, 2029.

(7) Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the Marshall Steam Station owned and operated by Duke Energy Carolinas, and located in Catawba County, December 31, 2035.

(8) Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the Mayo Steam Station owned and operated by Duke Energy Progress, and located in Person County, December 31, 2029.

(9) Coal combustion residuals surface impoundments located at the Roxboro Steam Station owned and operated by Duke Energy Progress, and located in Person County, December 31, 2036.

SECTION 3.(c) The Environmental Management Commission may adopt permanent rules governing permitting for closure and post-closure of coal combustion residuals surface impoundments and landfills in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, except the Commission is exempt from the fiscal note requirement of G.S. 150B-21.4 and from the Rules Review Commission review under Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes in adopting rules to implement this section.

PART III. DAM SAFETY FEE

SECTION 4. G.S. 143-215.28A reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-215.28A. Application fees.

(a) In accordance with G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1a), the Commission may establish a fee schedule for processing applications for approvals of construction or removal of dams issued

 under this Part. In establishing the fee schedule, the Commission shall consider the administrative and personnel costs incurred by the Department for processing the applications and for related compliance activities. The total amount of fees collected in any fiscal year may not exceed one third of the total personnel and administrative costs incurred by the Department for processing the applications and for related compliance activities in the prior fiscal year. An approval fee may not exceed the larger of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or two percent (2%) of the actual cost of construction or removal of the applicable dam. The fee for notification of a professionally supervised dam removal under G.S. 143-215.27(c)(1) shall be five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and shall be paid to the Department. The provisions of G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1b) do not apply to these fees.

- (a1) A nonrefundable application processing and compliance fee in the amount of two and one-quarter percent (2.25%) of the actual cost of construction, repair, alteration, breach, or removal of the applicable dam shall be paid for the processing of applications for approvals of construction, repair, or removal of dams issued under this Part as follows: (i) an initial fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or one-half of the processing and compliance fee based on the engineer's estimated cost of construction, repair, alteration, or removal of the dam, whichever amount is greater, shall be submitted with the application and (ii) the remainder of the processing and compliance fee based on the engineer's estimated cost of construction, repair, alteration, or removal of the dam, whichever amount is greater, shall be paid when the as-built plans are submitted to the Department. The maximum fee shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the construction, repair, alteration, or removal of a dam. In addition, the following provisions shall apply:
 - (1) Each application for construction, repair, alteration, or removal of a dam shall be deemed incomplete and shall not be reviewed until the initial fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or one-half of the processing and compliance fee is paid.
 - (2) For purposes of determining the actual cost of construction, repair, alteration, or removal, the cost shall (i) include all labor and materials costs associated with the project for the applicable dam and (ii) not include the costs associated with acquisition of land or right-of-way, design, quality control, electrical generating machinery, or constructing a roadway across the dam.
 - (3) Immediately upon completion of construction, repair, alteration, or removal of a dam, the owner shall file a certification with the Director, on a form prescribed by the Department, and accompanying documentation, which shows actual cost incurred by the owner for construction, repair, alteration, or removal of the applicable dam.
 - <u>a.</u> The owner's certification and accompanying documentation shall be filed with the as-built plans and the engineer's certification.
 - b. If the Director finds that the owner's certification and accompanying documentation contain inaccurate cost information, the Director shall either withhold final impoundment approval, if applicable, or revoke final impoundment approval, if applicable, until the owner provides accurate documentation and that documentation has been verified by the Department.
 - (4) Final approval to impound shall not be granted until the owner's certification and the accompanying documentation are filed in accordance with subdivision (3) of this subsection and the remainder of the application processing and compliance fee has been paid as provided by this subsection.
 - (5) Payment of the application processing and compliance fee shall be by check or money order made payable to the Department and reference the applicable dam.

(b) The Dam Safety Account is established as a nonreverting account within the Department. Fees collected under this section shall be credited to the Account and shall be applied to the costs of administering this Part."

PART IV. INCREASE THE ROOFTOP SOLAR LEASING CAP

SECTION 5.(a) G.S. 62-126.5 reads as rewritten:

"§ 62-126.5. Scope of leasing program in offering utilities' service areas.

.

- that are leased pursuant to this section shall not exceed one percent (1%) ten percent (10%) of the previous five-year average of the North Carolina retail contribution to the offering utility's coincident retail peak demand. The offering utility may refuse to interconnect customers that would result in this limitation being exceeded. Each offering utility shall establish a program for new installations of leased equipment to permit the reservation of capacity by customer generator lessees, whether participating in a public utility or nonutility lessor's leasing program, on its system, including provisions to prevent or discourage abuse of such programs. Such programs must provide that only prospective individual customer generator lessees may apply for, receive, and hold reservations to participate in the offering utility's leasing program. Each reservation shall be for a single customer premises only and may not be sold, exchanged, traded, or assigned except as part of the sale of the underlying premises.
- (d1) A solar energy facility leased to an individual customer generator lessee pursuant to this section is limited to a capacity of (i) not more than the lesser of 1,000 kilowatts (kW) or one hundred percent (100%) of contract demand if a nonresidential customer or (ii) not more than 20 kilowatts (kW) or one hundred percent (100%) of estimated electrical demand if a residential customer.
- (e) To comply with the terms of this section, each customer generator lessor's solar energy facility shall serve only one premises and shall not serve multiple customer generator lessees or multiple premises. The customer generator lessee must enroll in the applicable rate schedule made available by the interconnecting offering utility, subject to the participation limitations set forth in subsection (a) of this section."

SECTION 5.(b) This section becomes effective August 1, 2023, and applies to solar energy facility leases executed on or after that date.

PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 6. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.