

DUKE ENERGY CORP
Form 8-K
September 13, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of report: September 13, 2005

(Date of earliest event reported: September 13, 2005)

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

NORTH CAROLINA
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

526 South Church Street

1-4928
(Commission File No.)

28202-1904

56-0205520
(IRS Employer

Identification No.)

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Charlotte, North Carolina
(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:704-594-6200

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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ITEM 2.05 Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities

On September 13, 2005, the board of directors of Duke Energy Corporation (the Company) approved a plan to pursue the sale or other disposition of substantially all of Duke Energy North America's (DENA) physical and commercial assets outside the Midwestern United States, which include approximately 6,200 megawatts of power generation located primarily in the Northeast and Western U.S., as well as forward gas and power, gas transportation, storage, structured power and other contracts. Management evaluated various options for the sustainability of DENA and believes the disposition is the best option for the DENA assets from a shareholder value standpoint. The disposition plan is expected to be completed within approximately one year, and the Company expects the net effect on cash to be positive.

The disposition plan will result in a net initial pre-tax charge of approximately \$1.3 billion, which will be reported in third quarter 2005 earnings and which is comprised primarily of an approximate \$0.4 billion non-cash impairment charge related to the generation assets and approximately \$0.9 billion related to forward gas and power purchases and sales contracts related to the generation assets. The net charge for the forward gas and power contracts represents a charge of approximately \$2.1 billion for recognition of contracts that previously qualified for the normal purchases and sales exemption, partially offset by a credit of approximately \$1.2 billion for recognition of gains previously recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI), a separate component of stockholders' equity, for contracts accounted for as cash flow hedges. Going forward, these forward power and gas contracts will be marked to market through earnings, which could result in increased volatility in earnings until the contracts are settled, sold or otherwise disposed of. Additionally, over the next twelve months the Company expects to recognize approximately \$0.3 billion pre-tax gains as a reclassification from AOCI on discontinued cash flow hedges as the related natural gas and power transactions settle.

In addition to these initial charges, the Company anticipates recording additional charges related to the disposition plan that are not currently estimable. These charges will include the following:

Cash expenditures for termination costs for forward gas and power, transportation, storage, structured power and other contracts

Cash expenditures for transaction costs, including severance, legal and other costs

Further information about the plan of disposition is set forth in the press release attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1, which is incorporated herein by reference, except for the third sentence.

ITEM 2.06 Material Impairments

The information set forth under ITEM 2.05 Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

The information (including exhibits) that is being furnished pursuant to this Item 7.01 shall not be deemed to be filed for the purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act or otherwise subject to liabilities of that section, nor shall they be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This report under Item 7.01 is not an admission as to the materiality of any information in this

report.

On September 13, 2005, in conjunction with the actions taken by the board of directors of the Company described in Items 2.05 and 2.06 above, the subcommittee for performance-based compensation of the Compensation Committee of the board of

directors approved an adjustment to the 2005 short-term incentive opportunities for executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, under the Duke Energy Corporation Executive Short-Term Incentive Plan. The adjustment changes the target earnings per share (EPS) incentive from \$1.60 per basic share to \$1.65 per basic share. The target earnings per share incentive should track the Company's basic ongoing earnings.

ITEM 9.01 Financial Statements And Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release, dated September 13, 2005, issued by Duke Energy Corporation

This report includes statements that do not directly or exclusively relate to historical facts. Such statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Those statements represent the Company's intentions, plans, expectations, assumptions and beliefs about future events and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors. Many of those factors are outside the Company's control and could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed or implied by those forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include: state, federal and foreign legislative and regulatory initiatives that affect cost and investment recovery, have an impact on rate structures, and affect the speed at and degree to which competition enters the electric and natural gas industries; the outcomes of litigation and regulatory investigations, proceedings or inquiries; the weather and other natural phenomena; the timing and extent of changes in commodity prices, interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates; general economic conditions, including any potential effects arising from terrorist attacks and any consequential hostilities or other hostilities; changes in environmental and other laws and regulations to which the Company and its subsidiaries are subject or other external factors over which the Company has no control; the effect of accounting pronouncements issued periodically by accounting standard-setting bodies; the amount of collateral required to be posted from time to time in the Company's transactions; competition and regulatory limitations affecting the success of the Company's divestiture plans, including the prices at which the Company is able to sell its assets; the performance of electric generation, pipeline and gas processing facilities; the extent of success in connecting natural gas supplies to gathering and processing systems and in connecting and expanding gas and electric markets; and conditions of the capital markets and equity markets during the periods covered by the forward-looking statements. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the events described in the forward-looking statements might not occur or might occur to a different extent or at a different time than the Company has described. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION

By: */s/ Steven K. Young*

Steven K. Young
Vice President and Controller

Date: September 13, 2005