

## Duke rate increase could affect Blue Ridge Electric customers

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Last week, Duke Energy Corporation announced plans to spend \$1.8 billion to build a single coal-fired power unit at its Cliffside plant.

For Duke Energy customers, this will mean a rate increase, but will it affect Blue Ridge Electric? Maybe, according to Renee Whitener. Blue Ridge Electric purchases wholesale power from Duke Energy. Cost could be influenced by Duke's announcement. Other factors could be at work as well such as increased growth in the service area. Blue Ridge Electric is currently doing a routine study of its rates. Customers need not panic, according to Whitener. She assures that Blue Ridge Electric is doing its best to satisfy its customers. Results of the study will be shared with customers and the media later this summer.