

Duke Energy customers could see savings this fall

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Duke Energy customers in South Carolina could see an average of a 5.6 percent savings on their bills this fall if a proposed fuel cost decrease is approved.

Duke Energy Carolinas is proposing the change to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina to have its rate more accurately reflect the true cost of its energy production, according to a news release, and expects a decision in time for October bills to go out.

The utility adjusts its fuel costs annually to most accurately reflect the "actual cost of fuel used to generate electricity at its power plants," the release said.

There will be a hearing on the matter in

Columbia, Duke Energy spokesman Ryan Mosier said, and the ruling will be issued afterward.

If approved, a typical residential customer in South Carolina using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month would see a decrease of \$6.81 — roughly 5.6 percent.

Commercial customers would see a similar percentage, while commercial customers would save nearly 10 percent on their monthly bills.

The new rates would go into effect Oct. 1, Mosier said.

The fuel rate is based on the projected cost of fuel used to provide electric service to the company's customers, plus a true-up of the prior year's projection, according to the release, and Duke Energy cannot legally profit from the fuel component of rates.