

Duke Energy CORP  
Form S-3ASR  
December 01, 2010  
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 1, 2010

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
*UNDER*  
*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**Duke Energy Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of

20-2777218  
(I.R.S. Employer

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incorporation or organization)

Identification Number)

526 South Church Street

Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

(704) 594-6200

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Marc E. Manly, Esq.

Group Executive, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary

Duke Energy Corporation

526 South Church Street

Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

(704) 594-6200

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone numbers, including area code, of agent for service)

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement as determined by market conditions and other factors.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

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CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| <b>Title of each class of</b>             | <b>Amount to be</b> | <b>Proposed maximum</b>   | <b>Proposed maximum</b>   | <b>Amount of</b>        |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Securities to be registered</b>        | <b>registered</b>   | <b>offering price per</b> | <b>aggregate offering</b> | <b>registration fee</b> |
|   |                     | <b>unit(1)</b>            | <b>price(1)</b>           |                         |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share | 25,000,000 Shares   | \$17.45                   | \$436,250,000             | \$31,105                |

(1) Pursuant to Rule 457(c), these prices are estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee and are based upon the average of the high and low sales prices of the Registrant's common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on November 29, 2010. In accordance with Rule 415(a)(6), this Registration Statement includes 418,659 shares of the registrant's Common Stock previously registered for issuance under the registrant's Form S-3 filed February 19, 2009, File No. 333-157405 (the "Prior Registration Statement"). Such shares were unused for the plans described herein as of December 1, 2010. The registrant paid a fee of \$235 with respect to such shares upon the filing of the Prior Registration Statement, and therefore a registration fee of \$30,870 has been paid with this filing, reflecting the reduction of the fee paid upon such unused shares.

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**PROSPECTUS**

***DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION***

**InvestorDirect Choice Plan**

The Plan provides a convenient way for you to purchase shares of our common stock without paying any brokerage commissions or service charges. The Plan promotes long-term ownership in our common stock by offering:

A simple way to increase your holdings in our common stock by automatically reinvesting your cash dividends;

The opportunity to purchase additional shares by making optional investments of at least \$50 for any single investment, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per month; and

A feature which allows you to deposit certificates representing our common stock into the Plan for safekeeping. The Plan also provides us with a means of raising additional capital through the direct sale of our common stock.

You do not have to be a current shareholder to participate in the Plan. You can purchase your first shares of our common stock by making an initial investment of not less than \$250 and not more than \$100,000. In certain circumstances, we may permit greater initial investments. To the extent required by state securities laws in certain jurisdictions, shares of our common stock that are offered under the Plan to persons who are not presently record holders of our common stock may be offered only through a registered broker-dealer.

This prospectus relates to 25,000,000 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, offered for purchase under the Plan.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the trading symbol **DUK**.

You should read this prospectus carefully and retain it for future reference.

**You should carefully read and evaluate the risk factors included in our periodic reports and other information that we file with the SEC. See Risk Factors on page 3.**

**Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is December 1, 2010.

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**REFERENCES TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about us from other documents that are not included in or delivered with this prospectus. This information is available for you to review at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, DC 20549, and through the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). You can also obtain the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus by requesting them in writing or by telephone from us at the following address and telephone number:

Duke Energy

526 South Church Street

Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

(800) 488-3853

Attention: Investor Relations

[www.duke-energy.com/investors](http://www.duke-energy.com/investors)

See "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 15.

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| Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to Duke Energy we, our, or us refer to Duke Energy Corporation, and its direct and indirect subsidiaries. |             |

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**THE COMPANY**

Duke Energy is one of the largest electric power companies in the United States, and supplies and delivers energy to approximately 4 million U.S. customers. We have approximately 35,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity in the Midwest and the Carolinas, and natural gas distribution services in Ohio and Kentucky. In addition, we own and operate approximately 4,000 megawatts of electric generation in Latin America. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is a Fortune 500 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. We are a Delaware corporation, and our principal executive offices are located at 526 South Church Street, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28202-1803. Our telephone number is (704) 594-6200.

We operate in the following business segments: U.S. Franchised Electric & Gas, Commercial Power and International Energy.

U.S. Franchised Electric & Gas generates, transmits, distributes and sells electricity in central and western North Carolina, western South Carolina, southwestern Ohio, central, north central and southern Indiana and northern Kentucky. It also transports and sells natural gas in southwestern Ohio and northern Kentucky.

Commercial Power owns, operates and manages power plants and engages in the wholesale marketing and procurement of electric power, fuel and emission allowances related to these plants and other contractual positions. It has a retail sales subsidiary serving retail electric customers in parts of Ohio. Commercial Power also develops, owns and operates electric generation projects in the United States, including renewable power projects.

International Energy owns, operates and manages power generation facilities and engages in sales and marketing of electric power and natural gas outside the United States. Its activities target power generation in Latin America.



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**SUMMARY OF THE PLAN**

***Enrollment:*** An interested investor who does not already own shares of our common stock may enroll in the Plan by making an initial investment of at least \$250, and submitting a completed Enrollment Form or creating an account through DUK-Online, our online account management system. Current shareholders may participate by submitting a completed Enrollment Form. If your shares of our common stock are held in a brokerage account, you may participate directly by registering some or all of those shares in your name or by making arrangements with the broker, bank or other intermediary account to participate on your behalf.

***Reinvestment of Dividends:*** You may elect to have between ten percent and one hundred percent of your cash dividends on our common stock automatically reinvested toward the purchase of additional shares of our common stock without paying any fees. If you elect to have only a portion of your dividends reinvested, you will receive a cash payment on the remaining portion.

***Optional Investments:*** You may invest additional funds in our common stock through optional investments of at least \$50 for any single investment up to \$100,000 per month. You may make such optional investments occasionally or at regular intervals, as you desire. Optional investments in excess of \$100,000 per month may only be made in accordance with the procedures described in *Optional Investments Over Maximum Monthly Amount* under *Optional Investments* below. Optional investments will be fully invested in our common stock through the purchase of whole shares and fractional shares. We will pay or reinvest proportionate cash dividends on fractional shares of our common stock depending upon your reinvestment election.

***Safekeeping of Certificates:*** The Plan offers a safekeeping service whereby you may deposit certificates representing our common stock held in certificate form into the Plan. The safekeeping service is free of any service charges.

***Gifts or Transfer of Shares:*** You may direct us to transfer all or a portion of the shares of our common stock credited to your Account to another person, whether or not the transferee is a participant in the Plan. There is no cost for this service, and it is available for all shares held in the Plan, including shares deposited into the Plan for safekeeping.

***Sale of Shares:*** You may sell shares of our common stock credited to your Account (including those shares deposited into the Plan for safekeeping) through the Plan. A nominal brokerage commission and any required tax withholdings or transfer taxes will be deducted from the proceeds that you receive from the sale.

***Statement of Account:*** As a participant in the Plan, you will receive an annual statement of account and a supplemental statement following any account activity.

***Fees:*** You will not be charged any fees for the purchase of shares through your Account. A nominal brokerage commission (currently \$0.05 per share) will be deducted from the proceeds of any sale of shares credited to your Account.

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**RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our common stock involves risks. Before purchasing any securities we offer, you should carefully consider the risk factors that are incorporated by reference herein from the section captioned **Risk Factors** in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2010, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus and any other information that we have incorporated by reference, including filings made with the SEC subsequent to the date of this prospectus. Any of these risks, as well as other risks and uncertainties, could harm our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

This document includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933. Forward-looking statements are based on management's beliefs and assumptions. These forward-looking statements are identified by terms and phrases such as anticipate, believe, intend, estimate, expect, continue, should, could, may, plan, project, predict, will, potential, expressions. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to be materially different from the results predicted. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in any forward-looking statement include, but are not limited to:

State, federal and foreign legislative and regulatory initiatives, including costs of compliance with existing and future environmental requirements;

State, federal and foreign legislative and regulatory initiatives and rulings that affect cost and investment recovery or have an impact on rate structures;

Costs and effects of legal and administrative proceedings, settlements, investigations and claims;

Industrial, commercial and residential growth or decline in our service territories, customer base or customer usage patterns;

Additional competition in electric markets and continued industry consolidation;

Political and regulatory uncertainty in other countries in which we conduct business;

The influence of weather and other natural phenomena on our operations, including the economic, operational and other effects of hurricanes, storms, droughts and tornados;

The timing and extent of changes in commodity prices, interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates;

Unscheduled generation outages, unusual maintenance or repairs and electric transmission system constraints;

The performance of electric generation and of projects undertaken by our non-regulated businesses;

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The results of financing efforts, including our ability to obtain financing on favorable terms, which can be affected by various factors, including our credit ratings and general economic conditions;

Declines in the market prices of equity securities and resultant cash funding requirements for our defined benefit pension plans;

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The level of creditworthiness of counterparties to our transactions;

Employee workforce factors, including the potential inability to attract and retain key personnel;

Growth in opportunities for our business units, including the timing and success of efforts to develop domestic and international power and other projects;

Construction and development risks associated with the completion of our capital investment projects in existing and new generation facilities, including risks related to financing, obtaining and complying with terms of permits, meeting construction budgets and schedules, and satisfying operating and environmental performance standards, as well as the ability to recover costs from ratepayers in a timely manner or at all;

The effect of accounting pronouncements issued periodically by accounting standard-setting bodies; and

The ability to successfully complete merger, acquisition or divestiture plans.

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 we have described. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will receive proceeds from the sale of our common stock pursuant to the Plan only to the extent that those sales are of newly issued shares of our common stock made directly from us, and not from open market purchases. Any proceeds that we receive from sales of newly issued shares will be used for general corporate purposes. We cannot estimate the amount of any such proceeds at this time.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE PLAN**

Our Investor Relations Department serves as Administrator of the Plan. Its responsibilities include:

receiving optional investments;

maintaining records;

issuing statements of account; and

performing other duties required by the Plan.

Our Investor Relations Department also serves as Custodian of the Plan. The Custodian holds shares registered in the Plan's nominee name representing the aggregate number of whole shares of our common stock purchased under, or deposited for safekeeping into, the Plan and credited to participants' Accounts. The Administrator will forward funds to be used to purchase shares of our common stock in the open market to an Independent Agent that we have selected. The Independent Agent is responsible for purchasing and selling shares of our common stock in the open market for participants' Accounts in accordance with the Plan.



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You may contact the Administrator as detailed below.

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND MAILING ADDRESS**

**For information about the Plan:**

Toll-free telephone: (800) 488-3853

Charlotte telephone: (704) 382-3853

FAX: (704) 382-3814

Internet: [www.duke-energy.com/investors](http://www.duke-energy.com/investors)

Contact us online: [www.duke-energy.com/contactIR](http://www.duke-energy.com/contactIR)

**You should mail written requests and optional investments to:**

Duke Energy

Investor Relations Department

P.O. Box 1005

Charlotte, NC 28201-1005

For Overnight Delivery:

526 South Church Street

Charlotte, NC 28202-1904

**ENROLLMENT**

You are eligible to participate in the Plan if you meet the requirements outlined below. If you are a citizen or resident of a country other than the United States, its territories and possessions, you must first determine that participating in the Plan will not violate local laws applicable to us, the Plan and you as a participant.

**If you do not currently own any shares of our common stock**, you may participate in the Plan after receiving a copy of this prospectus and returning a completed Enrollment Form along with your initial investment of at least \$250 and not more than \$100,000. Alternatively, you may enroll through our online service, DUK-Online, by authorizing a one-time bank draft from your bank account. Please refer to the section below entitled, *Online Enrollment and Account Maintenance*, for additional information regarding online account services. Some state securities laws require that a registered broker-dealer send information to their residents. A registered broker-dealer will forward this prospectus and the Enrollment Form to residents of those states rather than our providing that information directly to those residents.

**If you already own shares of our common stock and those shares are registered in your name**, you may join the Plan after receiving a copy of this prospectus and returning a completed Enrollment Form. Registered shareholders should be sure to sign their names on the Enrollment Form exactly as they appear on their stock certificates. Or, you may contact the Plan Administrator for instructions on establishing an account online, through DUK-Online. *If you are currently participating in the Plan, you do not need to take any action to continue to participate. However, if you wish to change your participation in any way, please contact the Administrator for instructions.*

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If you hold your shares of our common stock in a brokerage, bank or other intermediary account that is, in street name, you may participate in the Plan by instructing your broker, bank or other intermediary account to register the shares in your name or by making arrangements with the broker, bank or other intermediary account to participate on your behalf. As another option, you may request a copy of this prospectus from the Administrator and return a completed Enrollment Form along with an initial investment of at least \$250 to Duke Energy Investor Relations.

### **ONLINE ENROLLMENT AND ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE**

You may enroll in the Plan via DUK-Online, the Administrator's online account management system. Many of the shareholder service options described in this prospectus are also available via this online tool. For additional information and to enroll entirely online, visit our website at [www.duke-energy.com/investors](http://www.duke-energy.com/investors).

### **INVESTMENT OPTIONS**

The options regarding the reinvestment of your dividends are listed below. You may change a reinvestment decision at any time by notifying Duke Energy Investor Relations in writing. Your notification must be received prior to the record date for a dividend for it to be reinvested. The dividend record date for our common stock is normally the Friday closest to the 15th of February, May, August and November.

**FULL DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT** Your cash dividends on all shares of our common stock are automatically reinvested. This includes reinvestment on Plan shares and direct registration shares.

**PARTIAL DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT** You must specify the percentage of your Plan dividends you wish to have reinvested in our common stock (minimum of 10%). Dividends on the remaining shares are paid in cash. No minimum reinvestment is required on direct registration shares.

**Direct Deposit of Cash Dividends:** If you choose the partial dividend reinvestment option, you may elect to have your cash dividends deposited directly into your U.S. bank account on the dividend payment date instead of receiving a check by mail. To make this election, you must complete a direct deposit authorization form and return it to the Administrator, along with a voided check for the designated bank account. The direct deposit authorization form is available from the Administrator. Alternatively, you may make this election through your DUK-Online account. In order to initiate, change or stop the direct deposit of dividends, Duke Energy Investor Relations must receive your written request at least 30 days before the dividend payment date.

### **OPTIONAL INVESTMENTS**

You can purchase shares of our common stock by using the Plan's optional investment feature. To purchase shares by making optional investments, you must invest at least \$50 at any one time (at least \$250 for an initial investment if you are not already a shareholder) but cannot invest more than \$100,000 per month, except as described below under **Optional Investments Over Maximum Monthly Amount**. Any optional investment of less than \$50 (\$250 for an initial investment by

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an investor who is not a shareholder) and the portion of any optional investment or investments totaling more than \$100,000 per month will be returned without interest. You have no obligation to make any optional investments under the Plan.

***Timing of Investments:*** An Investment Date for optional investments will occur each Thursday, or, if that day is not a business day, the business day immediately following that Thursday. **The Administrator must receive optional investments no later than two business days before an Investment Date for those investments to be invested in our common stock beginning on that Investment Date.** Otherwise, the Administrator may hold those funds and invest them beginning on the next Investment Date. **No interest will be paid on funds held by the Administrator pending investment.** Accordingly, you may wish to transmit any such investments so as to reach the Administrator shortly but not less than two business days before an Investment Date in order to minimize any time period during which your funds are not invested. Dividend payments that you have designated for reinvestment will be invested on the Investment Date immediately following the applicable dividend payment date.

***Method of Payment:***

***Check or Money Order*** You may make optional investments during any month by delivering to the Administrator a completed optional investment stub (the tear-off portion located at the top of your statement) or an Enrollment Form and a personal check or money order made payable to Duke Energy Corporation. **Cash payments will not be accepted.**

***Automatic Bank Draft*** You may pre-authorize the Administrator to deduct a set amount (\$25 minimum) from a U.S. checking, savings or credit union account. To initiate the bank draft, you may complete and sign a Bank Draft Authorization Form and return it to the Administrator with a voided check for the bank account from which funds are to be drafted. The Bank Draft Authorization Form is available on the Enrollment Form or through the Plan Administrator. You may also make this election online through your DUK-Online account. Automatic bank drafts will be initiated as promptly as practicable. After the automatic bank draft is established, funds will be drawn on the 16th of each month or, if that date falls on a non-business day, the next business day. If the draft occurs on any day other than a Friday, funds drafted will be invested in our common stock during the same week. Bank drafts occurring on a Friday will be invested on the Investment Date occurring in the following week. You should allow up to 4 weeks for the first automatic bank draft to be initiated. In order to terminate an automatic bank draft, you must notify the Administrator in writing at least 10 business days before the next automatic bank draft date in order for the termination to be effective by that date.

***One-Time Online Draft*** You may pre-authorize the Administrator to deduct at least \$50 for a single investment, or up to a maximum of \$100,000 per month, through the Automatic Investment feature available through DUK-Online. Your bank account will be debited within one to five business days once the Automatic Investment form is submitted online. Shares will be purchased on the next Investment Date.

Other forms of payment, such as wire transfers, may be made, but only if the Administrator provides advance approval. You should direct any inquiries regarding other forms of payment to the Administrator as indicated above under the caption Telephone Numbers and Mailing Address. The Administrator may impose fees for checks or drafts returned for insufficient funds, in amounts determined from time to time.

***Dividends on Shares Purchased:*** If shares that you have purchased by optional investment are added to your Account on or before a dividend record date, you will receive the upcoming dividend on those newly added shares as well as any other shares already credited to your Account. We generally pay dividends on our common



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stock on the 16th of March, June, September and December to shareholders of record on the Friday closest to the 15th of February, May, August and November. Thus, shares purchased by optional investment by the first Investment Date occurring in February, May, August and November will be credited to your Account in time to receive dividends payable with respect to the dividend record date in that month.

***Pending Investments:*** Optional investments, pending investment pursuant to the Plan, will be credited to your Account and held in a trust account which will be separate from any of our other funds or monies. Any such investments that are not invested in our common stock within 30 days of receipt will be promptly returned to you.

***Optional Investments Over Maximum Monthly Amount:*** Optional investments in excess of \$100,000 per month (including any initial investments in excess of \$100,000) may be made only with our approval by investors that submit Requests for Waiver in accordance with the procedure described in a document to be delivered to such investors, called Duke Energy Corporation InvestorDirect Choice Plan Optional Investments Over Maximum Monthly Amount, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 99 to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. That exhibit is incorporated by reference into this prospectus and is available upon request to our Investor Relations Department.

**PURCHASE OF SHARES**

***Source of Shares:*** Shares of our common stock needed to meet the requirements of the Plan will be either newly issued shares purchased directly from us or shares purchased in the open market by an Independent Agent. We will not change our determination regarding the source of shares more than once in any 3-month period.

***Pricing of Newly Issued Shares:*** The price of each newly issued share purchased directly from us for dividend reinvestments or for optional investments not exceeding \$100,000 per month will be the average of the high and low sale prices of our common stock reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape for the trading date preceding the Investment Date. In the event no trading is reported for that trading day, we may determine the purchase price on the basis of market quotations as we deem appropriate.

***Pricing of Shares Purchased in the Open Market:*** The price of any shares of our common stock purchased in the open market to satisfy Plan requirements will be the weighted average price per share of the aggregate number of shares purchased for the relevant Investment Date. The number of shares (including any fraction of a share, rounded to four decimal places) of our common stock purchased in the open market that is credited to your Account for a particular Investment Date will be determined by dividing the total amount of cash dividends, optional investments and/or initial investments to be invested for you on that Investment Date by the relevant purchase price per share. We will pay any brokerage fees that the Plan incurs for open market purchases. The Independent Agent may commingle your funds with those of other participants in the Plan for the purpose of executing purchase and sale transactions.

***Timing of Purchases:*** Purchases in the open market may begin on the relevant Investment Date and will be completed no more than 15 days after that Investment Date. For dividends being reinvested, purchases may begin immediately after the dividend payment date. Funds not invested in our common stock within 30 days of receipt will be promptly returned to you. With regard to open market purchases of shares of our common stock by an Independent Agent, neither we, the Administrator, nor any participant in the Plan will have any authority or power to:

direct the time or price at which shares may be purchased;

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designate the markets on which shares are to be purchased; or

select the broker or dealer (other than the Independent Agent) through which purchases may be made.

Therefore, you will not be able to precisely time your purchases through the Plan, and will bear the market risk associated with fluctuations in the price of our common stock.

**SALE OF SHARES**

You may request, at any time, that all or a portion of the shares of our common stock credited to your Account be sold by delivering written instructions to the Administrator or by completing a sale request through DUK-Online. Written instructions may be sent either by mail or telecopier (fax) and must be signed by all registered holders of those shares. The Administrator will forward the instructions to the Independent Agent, who will sell the shares as promptly as practicable. The Independent Agent cannot, however, sell any certificated shares owned by a participant in the Plan unless the certificates are first deposited into the Plan using the safekeeping feature.

The Administrator reserves the right to close your Account if the share balance in the Account is less than one whole share. If the Administrator exercises this right, you will receive a check for the value of any fractional share less applicable brokerage commissions and any required tax withholdings or transfer taxes.

**Timing of Sales:** The Independent Agent will generally make sales of Plan shares at least weekly, or more frequently if volume dictates. With regard to those sales, neither we, the Administrator, nor any participant in the Plan will have any authority or power to:

direct the time or price at which shares may be sold;

designate the markets on which shares are to be sold; or

select the broker or dealer (other than the Independent Agent) through which sales may be made.

Therefore, you will not be able to precisely time your sales through the Plan and will bear the market risk associated with fluctuations in the price of our common stock. You may also choose to sell your shares by contacting a stockbroker of your choice.

**Pricing of Shares Sold:** The sale price of any shares sold will be the weighted average price of all shares sold for participants in the Plan during the period in which the Independent Agent is provided with Plan shares for that sale. You will receive the proceeds of the sale, less a nominal brokerage fee (currently \$0.05 per share) and any required tax withholdings or transfer taxes.

**SAFEKEEPING OF CERTIFICATES**

You may deposit any shares of our common stock that you hold in certificate form into the Plan for safekeeping by delivering those stock certificates, unendorsed, to the Administrator and requesting that the shares be credited to your Account. You may do this at the time of enrollment by delivering the certificates along with a completed Enrollment Form or at any later time. Also, shares issued in direct registration are eligible for safekeeping in the Plan by delivering written instructions to the Administrator. The safekeeping feature is offered at no charge to you and eliminates the risk associated with the loss of stock certificates.

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The shares of our common stock that you deposit will be credited to your Account and will be treated in the same manner as shares of our common stock purchased under the Plan and credited to your Account. Cash dividends paid on shares of our common stock that are deposited into the Plan for safekeeping will be reinvested in shares of our common stock or paid to you in accordance with your percentage reinvestment election as designated on your Enrollment Form.

### **GIFTS OR TRANSFERS OF SHARES**

**You may give or transfer shares of our common stock to anyone you choose by:**

making an initial investment to establish an Account in the recipient's name. Simply complete and submit an application to the Administrator in the recipient's name together with the required initial investment of at least \$250 but not more than \$100,000; or

making an optional investment in an amount of at least \$50 but not more than \$100,000, on behalf of an existing participant; or

transferring shares from your Account to another person as described below.

You may transfer ownership of all or part of your Plan shares by delivering a written request to the Administrator with instructions for the change in ownership. Requests for Account transfers are subject to the same requirements as requests for the transfer of securities, including the requirement that the Administrator receive a properly executed and signed stock power with signatures guaranteed by a financial institution participating in the Medallion Signature Guarantee program. Most banks and brokers participate in the Medallion Signature Guarantee program.

The Administrator will continue to hold shares transferred under the Plan. The Administrator will open an Account in the name of the transferee, if the transferee is not already a participant, and the transferee will automatically be enrolled in the Plan. If no election is made with regard to the reinvestment of cash dividends on the transferred shares (minimum of 10%) at the time of transfer, all cash dividends will be reinvested on behalf of the transferee. The transferee will receive an Enrollment Form and a copy of this prospectus, and a statement will be sent to the transferee showing the transfer of shares into his or her Account.

The transfer will be made as soon as practicable after the Administrator receives the required documentation. Requests for transfer of the **entire** Account balance received after a dividend record date but before the related dividend payment date will be held until the dividend has been paid, reinvested in our common stock and applied to your Account.

Shares of our common stock credited to your Account may not be pledged or assigned. If you wish to pledge or assign your shares, you must withdraw those shares from your Account.

### **DIRECT REGISTRATION**

You may request the Plan Administrator hold your common shares in a book entry position, through direct registration. This is an electronic form of share ownership. If you hold shares in a brokerage, bank or other intermediary account and instruct your broker, bank or other intermediary account to register the shares in your name, the shares will be received by the Plan Administrator and held in direct registration, until otherwise directed by you.

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You may convert at any time, free of charge, to direct registration form for all or a part of the whole Plan shares of our common stock credited to your Account upon written request to the Administrator. The reverse side of the statement top may be used for this purpose. The conversion of Plan shares to direct registration form will not change your reinvestment instructions unless you direct otherwise. Any remaining whole or fractions of shares of our common stock will continue to be credited to your Account. No fractional shares of our common stock will be issued in direct registration form under any circumstances.

Shares in direct registration form will be issued in the name(s) in which the Account is registered unless you instruct otherwise. If the shares are to be issued in a name other than your Account registration, the signature on the instructions or stock power must be guaranteed by a financial institution participating in the Medallion Signature Guarantee program. Most banks and brokers participate in the Medallion Signature Guarantee program.

### **ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES**

You may obtain at any time, free of charge, a certificate for all or a part of the whole shares of our common stock credited to your Account upon written request to the Administrator. The reverse side of the statement top may be used for this purpose. Those certificate(s) will be mailed by first class mail, within two business days of the Administrator's receipt of the written request, to your address of record. The issuance of Plan shares in certificate form will not change your reinvestment instructions unless you direct otherwise. Any remaining whole or fractions of shares of our common stock will continue to be credited to your Account. Certificates for fractions of shares of our common stock will not be issued under any circumstances.

Certificates will be issued in the name or names in which the Account is registered unless you instruct otherwise. If the certificate is issued in a name other than your Account registration, the signature on the instructions or stock power must be guaranteed by a financial institution participating in the Medallion Signature Guarantee program. Most banks and brokers participate in the Medallion Signature Guarantee program.

### **STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT**

You will receive a statement of account in months in which you make an optional investment, reinvest cash dividends or deposit, transfer or withdraw shares under the Plan. The Administrator will also send a statement promptly after the sale of shares under the Plan. In addition, you will receive an annual statement showing all transactions for your Account during the current calendar year. If you participate in the Plan through a broker, bank or other intermediary account, you should contact that party regarding your statement.

**Please notify Duke Energy Investor Relations promptly of any change in your address.** The Administrator will mail all notices, statements and reports to your address of record. You should retain the statements that you receive in order to establish the cost basis of shares purchased under the Plan for tax and other purposes.

### **TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION**

You may terminate your participation in the Plan at any time by delivering written instructions to the Administrator, either by mail or telecopier (fax), signed by all registered holders listed on the Account. You may also submit a termination

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request online by selling all shares through DUK-Online. Upon termination, you must elect either to receive a certificate or direct registration shares for the number of whole shares held in your Account and a check for the value of any fractional share, or to have all the shares in your Account sold for you as described under the section entitled *Sale of Shares* in this prospectus.

The Administrator will send your stock certificates, statement and/or proceeds to you as soon as practicable. If the Administrator receives a notice of termination after a dividend record date but before the related dividend payment date, a separate dividend check will be mailed to you on the dividend payment date. Thereafter, cash dividends on any remaining shares of our common stock that you hold will be paid to you and will not be reinvested.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

***Stock Dividend/Stock Split:*** Any stock dividends or split shares that we distribute on shares credited to your Account will be added to your Account. Stock dividends or split shares that we distribute on shares registered in your name outside of the Plan will be distributed directly to you in the same manner as to holders of shares of our common stock who are not participating in the Plan.

***Rights Offering:*** Your entitlement under the Plan in a regular rights offering will be based upon your total holdings of our common stock in the Plan. We will issue rights certificates only for the number of whole shares credited to your Account. Rights based on a fraction of a share held in your Account will be sold for the Account and the net proceeds will be invested in our common stock and added to your Account by the end of the following month.

***Voting of Proxies:*** You will have the exclusive right to exercise all voting rights with respect to shares of our common stock credited to your Account. You will receive proxy materials from us for each shareholder meeting, including a proxy statement and a form of proxy covering all shares credited to your Account and all shares of stock registered in your name outside of the Plan as of the record date for the shareholder meeting. You are encouraged to enroll for electronic delivery of proxy materials by going to [www.icsdelivery.com/duk](http://www.icsdelivery.com/duk) and following the instructions.

***Shareholder Communications:*** In addition to proxy materials, participants in the Plan will have the right to receive all communications sent to holders of our common stock generally.

***Responsibility of the Administrator, the Independent Agent and us:*** Neither the Administrator (including us acting as such) nor the Independent Agent will be liable for any act done in good faith or for the good faith omission to act in connection with the Plan, including any claim of liability arising out of failure to terminate your Account upon your death prior to receipt of written notice of your death, or with respect to the prices at which shares of our common stock are purchased or sold for your Account and the times when those purchases and sales are made.

***Plan Modification or Termination:*** We reserve the right to suspend, modify or terminate the Plan at any time without the approval of participants in the Plan. We will send notice of any suspension, termination or significant modification of the Plan to all participants, who will in all events have the right to withdraw from participation.

***Multiple Accounts:*** We reserve the right to aggregate all optional investments for participants with more than one Account using the same name, address or social security or taxpayer identification number. Also for the

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purpose of such limitations, all participants' Accounts that we believe to be under common control or management or to have common ultimate beneficial ownership may be aggregated. In the event that we exercise our right to aggregate investments and the result would be an investment in excess of \$100,000 per month we will return, without interest, as promptly as practicable, any amount in excess of \$100,000.

*Transfer Agent and Registrar:* We act as our own transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

**We cannot assure you of a profit or protect you against a loss on the shares of our common stock that you purchase or sell under the Plan.**

**The payment of dividends is at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend upon future earnings, our financial condition and other factors. There can be no assurance as to the declaration or payment of any dividend. Nothing in the Plan obligates us to declare or pay any dividend on our common stock.**

### **CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences regarding the Plan. This summary is based on current law and may be affected by future legislation, Internal Revenue Service rulings and other administrative pronouncements, income tax regulations and court decisions. This discussion does not purport to deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to you in light of your circumstances, or if you are a type of investor who is subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax law (including, without limitation, insurance companies, partnerships, tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions, broker dealers, foreign corporations and persons who are not citizens or residents of the United States). **YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH YOUR OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE SPECIFIC TAX CONSEQUENCES (INCLUDING THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES) OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PLAN, AND OF POTENTIAL CHANGES IN APPLICABLE TAX LAWS.**

In general, the amount of cash dividends paid by Duke Energy will be includable in your income even though reinvested under the Plan. When your dividends are reinvested to acquire shares (including any fractional share) directly from us, you will be treated as having received on the dividend payment date a taxable dividend in an amount equal to the fair market value of our common stock purchased for your account under the Plan. When your dividends are reinvested to acquire shares (including any fractional share) purchased in market transactions, you will be treated as having received a taxable dividend equal to the amount of cash dividends used to make those purchases.

If you make optional investments that are subject to a waiver discount, you may be treated as having received an additional dividend distribution equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the shares acquired on the Investment Date over the amount of your optional investment. The Internal Revenue Service has issued private letter rulings on plans similar to the Plan which ruled that shareholders making optional investments will not be treated as having received such dividend income if the shareholders are not also participants in the dividend reinvestment aspect of the plan. Private letter rulings are not precedent and may not be relied upon by persons other than the taxpayers to which they are issued.

We will report to you for tax purposes the dividends to be credited to your account. Such information will also be furnished to the Internal Revenue Service to the extent required by law.

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The tax basis of shares acquired through the reinvestment of dividends pursuant to the Plan will generally equal the amount of distributions you are treated as receiving, as described above. The tax basis of shares purchased with optional investments will be equal to the amount of those investments increased by the amount of any additional dividend that you are treated as having received as a result of a waiver discount. The tax basis of shares purchased in the open market to satisfy Plan requirements will be increased by the amount of any brokerage fees incurred by the Plan on your behalf. Your December Plan statement will disclose all Plan activities for the year and may be useful when calculating your tax basis. The holding period for shares acquired under the Plan (including any fractional share) generally will begin on the date after the date on which the shares are purchased and credited to your Plan account, regardless of the source of purchase. Consequently, shares of our common stock acquired at different times will have different holding periods.

You will not realize any taxable income when you receive certificates for whole shares credited to your Account under the Plan. Upon the sale of either a portion or all of your shares from the Plan, you may recognize a capital gain or loss based on the difference between the sales proceeds and the tax basis in the shares sold, including any fractional share. Such capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if your holding period for your shares or fractional share exceeded the Internal Revenue Code's applicable period (currently one year) at the time of disposition.

If you are subject to withholding taxes, we will withhold the required taxes from the gross dividends and from the proceeds from the sale of shares. The dividends and proceeds received by you, or dividends reinvested on your behalf, will be net of the required taxes.

### **INTERPRETATION OF THE PLAN**

Our officers are authorized to take any actions that are consistent with the Plan's terms and conditions. We reserve the right to interpret and regulate the Plan as we deem necessary or desirable in connection with the Plan's operations.

### **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

Subject to the availability of shares of our common stock registered for issuance under the Plan, there is no maximum number of shares that can be issued pursuant to the reinvestment of dividends. From time to time, financial intermediaries, including brokers and dealers, and other persons may engage in positioning transactions in order to benefit from the waiver discounts applicable to optional investments over \$100,000 per month made pursuant to Requests for Waiver under the Plan. Those transactions may cause fluctuations in the trading volume of our common stock. Financial intermediaries and such other persons who engage in positioning transactions may be deemed to be underwriters. We have no arrangements or understandings, formal or informal, with any person relating to the sale of shares of our common stock to be received under the Plan. We reserve the right to modify, suspend or terminate participation in the Plan by otherwise eligible persons in order to eliminate practices which are inconsistent with the purpose of the Plan.

We will pay any and all brokerage commissions and related expenses incurred in connection with purchases of our common stock under the Plan. Upon withdrawal by a participant from the Plan by the sale of shares of our common stock held under the Plan, the participant will receive the proceeds of that sale less a nominal brokerage commission and any required tax withholdings or transfer taxes.

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Our common stock may not be available under the Plan in all states. We are not making an offer to sell our common stock in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

### **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedules, incorporated in this prospectus by reference from Duke Energy Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, and the effectiveness of Duke Energy's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

### **CERTAIN LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the common stock offered by this prospectus has been passed upon for us by Robert T. Lucas III, who is our Associate General Counsel.

### **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, in accordance therewith, file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. Such reports and other information can be inspected and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain copies of these documents at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Section of the SEC at its Washington, D.C. address. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information. Our filings with the SEC, as well as additional information about us are also available to the public through our website at <http://www.duke-energy.com> and are made available as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is filed with or furnished to the SEC. The information on our website is not a part of this prospectus. Our filings are also available to the public through the SEC website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future documents filed by us with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until the offering of Common Stock under this prospectus is completed.

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, including the portions of our definitive proxy statement filed on Schedule 14A on March 22, 2010 that are incorporated by reference therein;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2010, June 30, 2010, and September 30, 2010; and

Current reports on Form 8-K filed February 16, 2010; February 26, 2010; March 12, 2010; March 25, 2010; April 1, 2010; April 12, 2010; May 12, 2010; May 28, 2010; and September 17, 2010.



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We will provide you without charge a copy of these filings, other than any exhibits unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You may request a copy by writing us at the following address or telephoning one of the following numbers:

Investor Relations Department  
P.O. Box 1005  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201  
(704) 382-3853 or (800) 488-3853 (toll-free)

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**DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION**

**COMMON STOCK**

(par value \$0.001 per share)

**PROSPECTUS**

**December 1, 2010**

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell our common stock in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in the prospectus is accurate only as of its date. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

**Table of Contents****PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution (Estimated):**

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| SEC Filing Fee (Actual)    | \$ 30,870      |
| Printing Costs             | 80,000         |
| Legal Fees and Expenses    | 5,000          |
| Accounting Fees            | 15,000         |
| Blue Sky Fees and Expenses | 5,000          |
| <br>TOTAL                  | <br>\$ 135,870 |

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

Delaware law permits a corporation to adopt a provision in its certificate of incorporation eliminating or limiting the personal liability of a director, but not an officer in his or her capacity as such, to the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except that such provision shall not limit the liability of a director for (i) any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its shareholders, (ii) acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) liability under section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL") for unlawful payment of dividends or stock purchases or redemptions, or (iv) any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. Our certificate of incorporation provides that no director of ours shall be personally liable to us or our shareholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except to the extent such an exemption from liability or limitation thereof is not permitted under applicable law.

Under Delaware law, a corporation may indemnify any person made a party or threatened to be made a party to any type of proceeding, other than action by or in the right of the corporation, because he or she is or was an officer, director, employee or agent of the corporation or was serving at the request of the corporation as an officer, director, employee or agent of another corporation or entity against expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such proceeding: (1) if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation; or (2) in the case of a criminal proceeding, he or she had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful. A corporation may indemnify any person made a party or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit brought by or in the right of the corporation because he or she was an officer, director, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or other entity, against expenses actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such action or suit if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, provided that such indemnification will be denied if the person is found liable to the corporation unless, in such a case, the court determines the person is entitled to indemnification for such expenses in any event. A corporation must indemnify a present or former director or officer who successfully defends himself or herself in a proceeding to which he or she was a party because he or she was a director or officer of the corporation against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him or her. Expenses incurred by an officer or director, or any employees or agents as deemed appropriate by the board of directors, in defending civil or criminal proceedings may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such proceedings upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such director or officer to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is not entitled to be indemnified by the corporation. The Delaware law regarding indemnification and expense advancement is not exclusive of any other rights which may be granted by our certificate of incorporation or bylaws, a vote of shareholders or disinterested directors, agreement or otherwise.

Under the DGCL, termination of any proceeding by conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that such person is prohibited from being indemnified.

Our bylaws provide that we will indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of us), by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of us, or is or was a director or officer serving at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of



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another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to our best interests, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such person's conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, will not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to our best interests, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that such person's conduct was unlawful.

Our bylaws further provide that we will indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of us to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of us, or is or was a director or officer of us serving at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if such person acted in good faith, and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to our best interests except that no indemnification will be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to us unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware or the court in which such action or suit was brought determines upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

However, our bylaws provide that we will only provide indemnification pursuant to the bylaws (unless ordered by a court) if such indemnification is authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the present or former director or officer is proper in the circumstances because such person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in the bylaws. Such determination is to be made, with respect to a person who is a director or officer at the time of such determination, (i) by a majority vote of the directors who are not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, even though less than a quorum, or (ii) by a committee of directors who are not parties to such action, suit or proceeding designated by a majority vote of such directors, even though less than a quorum, or (iii) if there are no such directors, or if such directors so direct, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (iv) by the shareholders. Such determination is to be made, with respect to former directors and officers, by any person or persons having the authority to act on the matter on our behalf. To the extent, however, that a present or former director or officer of ours has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection therewith, without the necessity of authorization in the specific case.

Our bylaws further provide that except for proceedings to enforce rights to indemnification, we will not be obligated to indemnify any director or officer (or his or her heirs, executors or personal or legal representatives) or advance expenses in connection with a proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person unless such proceeding (or part thereof) was authorized or consented to by the board of directors.

The indemnification and advancement of expenses provided by, or granted pursuant to, our bylaws are not deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification or advancement of expenses may be entitled under the certificate of incorporation, bylaws, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in such person's official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office. It is our policy that indemnification shall generally be made to the fullest extent permitted by law. Our bylaws do not preclude indemnifying persons in addition to those specified in the bylaws but whom we have the power or obligation to indemnify under the provisions of the DGCL, or otherwise.

We may also purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director or officer, or is or was a director or officer serving at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of such person's status as such, whether or not we would have the power or the obligation to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of the bylaws.

Duke Energy Corporation was formed as a holding company in connection with the consummation of the merger of our predecessor, Duke Energy Corporation, a North Carolina corporation, and Cinergy Corp., on April 3, 2006. For a further description of the rights to indemnification and exculpation from liabilities of directors and officers arising pursuant to the merger agreement, reference is made to Item 15 of Duke Energy Corporation's Form S-3 filed April 5, 2006, File No. 333-132996.

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**Item 16. Exhibits.**

The exhibits to this registration statement are listed in the exhibit index, which appears elsewhere herein and is incorporated by reference.

**Item 17. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*Provided, however,*

Paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form F-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement

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relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

Each of the undersigned registrants undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) Each of the undersigned registrants hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, Duke Energy Corporation certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Charlotte, State of North Carolina, on December 1, 2010.

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION

(Registrant)

By: JAMES E. ROGERS\*  
 Name: James E. Rogers  
 Title: Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| SIGNATURE              | TITLE  | DATE             |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| JAMES E. ROGERS*       | Director and Chairman, President and                         | December 1, 2010 |
| <b>James E. Rogers</b> | Chief Executive Officer<br><br>(Principal Executive Officer) |                  |
| LYNN J. GOOD*          | Group Executive and Chief Financial Officer                  | December 1, 2010 |
| <b>Lynn J. Good</b>    | (Principal Financial Officer)                                |                  |
| STEVEN K. YOUNG*       | Senior Vice President and Controller                         | December 1, 2010 |
| <b>Steven K. Young</b> | (Principal Accounting Officer)                               |                  |

All of the Directors:

|                        |          |                  |
|------------------------|----------|------------------|
| WILLIAM BARNET, III*   | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| G. ALEX BERNHARDT SR.* | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| MICHAEL G. BROWNING*   | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| DANIEL R. DIMICCO*     | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| JOHN H. FORSGREN*      | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| ANN MAYNARD GRAY*      | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| JAMES H. HANCE, JR.*   | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| E. JAMES REINSCH*      | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| JAMES T. RHODES*       | Director | December 1, 2010 |
| PHILIP R. SHARP*       | Director | December 1, 2010 |

\* The undersigned, by signing his name hereto, does hereby sign this document on behalf of the registrant and on behalf of each of the above-named persons indicated above by asterisks, pursuant to a power of attorney duly executed by the registrant and such persons, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit hereto.

By: /s/ DAVID S. MALTZ  
 Attorney-in-Fact



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December 1, 2010

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**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Exhibit</b>  |
|--------------------|---|
| 3.1 *              | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Duke Energy Corporation (filed with Form 8-K, File No. 1-32853, dated April 4, 2006, as Exhibit 3.1) |
| 3.2 *              | Amended and Restated Bylaws of Duke Energy Corporation (filed with Form 8-K, File No. 1-32853, dated April 4, 2006, as Exhibit 3.2)                       |
| 5                  | Opinion of Robert T. Lucas III, Esq.  |
| 23                 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for Duke Energy Corporation   |
| 24.1               | Power of Attorney of certain officers and directors of Duke Energy Corporation  |
| 24.2               | Resolution of Duke Energy Corporation regarding Power of Attorney   |
| 99                 | Duke Energy Corporation InvestorDirect Choice Plan - Optional Investments Over Maximum Monthly Amount   |

\* Previously filed and incorporated herein by reference thereto.