

DUKE ENERGY CORP  
Form 8-K  
March 24, 2005

**UNITED STATES**

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

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**FORM 8-K**

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

**Date of report: March 18, 2005**  
(Date of earliest event reported):

**DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**1-4928**  
(Commission File No.)

**52-0205520**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**526 South Church Street**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**28202-1904**  
(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 1.01 Entry Into a Material Definitive Agreement**

In February 2005, the registrant's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of the registrant's common shares, over a three year period, up to an aggregate purchase price of \$2.5 billion. On March 18, 2005, the registrant entered into an accelerated share acquisition plan ( "Purchase Contract" ) with Merrill Lynch International ( "Merrill Lynch" ). Pursuant to the Purchase Contract, the registrant repurchased 30 million shares of its common stock from Merrill Lynch, with Merrill Lynch purchasing an equivalent number of the registrant's common shares in the open market during the term of the Purchase Contract. The repurchase was funded from cash on hand and was settled on March 23, 2005. The Purchase Contract provides for a contingent purchase price adjustment, final settlement of which is expected by November 8, 2005, whereby the registrant will receive from, or pay to, Merrill Lynch an amount reflecting the prices actually paid by Merrill Lynch for its open-market purchases.

The common shares repurchased will become authorized but unissued shares of the registrant.

**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/ Edward M. Marsh, Jr.

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Edward M. Marsh, Jr.  
Deputy General Counsel and  
Assistant Secretary

Date: March 24, 2005