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BAILEY CAVALIERI LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

One Columbus 10 West Broad Street, Suite 2100 Columbus, Ohio 43215-3422
telephone 614.221.3155 facsimile 614.221.0479
www.baileycavalieri.com

Direct Dial: 614.229.3210
Email: dane.stinson@BaileyCavalieri.com

January 26, 2009

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Via Hand Delivery

Ms. Renee Jenkins
Docketing Division
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 13th Floor
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

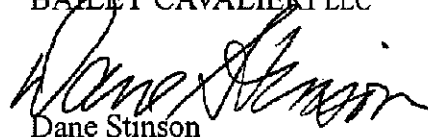
Re: *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and The Toledo Edison Company for Approval of Rider FUEL and Related Accounting Authority; Case Nos. 09-21-EL-ATA, 09-22-EL-AEM, 09-23-EL-AAM*

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

Please find enclosed for filing in the above captioned matters the original and twenty (20) copies of (1) NextEra's Motion to Intervene and (2) NextEra's Application for Rehearing. Please date stamp and return the additional copies enclosed herewith.

Very truly yours,

BAILEY CAVALIERI LLC


Dane Stinson

Enclosures

cc: Alan R. Schriber, Chair (via hand delivery)
Ronda Hartman Fergus, Commissioner (via hand delivery)
Valerie A. Lemmie, Commissioner (via hand delivery)
Paul A. Centolella, Commissioner (via hand delivery)
Cheryl Roberto, Commissioner (via hand delivery)
Stephen D. Lesser, Chief of Staff (via hand delivery)
Christine M. T. Pirik, Examiner (via hand delivery)
Gregory Price, Examiner (via hand delivery)
Paul J. Duffy, Legal Director (via hand delivery)
Parties of Record (via electronic mail)

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BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

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In the Matter of the Application of the Ohio Edison)
Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating)
Company, and The Toledo Edison Company for)
Approval of Rider FUEL and Related Accounting)
Authority.)

Case Nos. 09-21-EL-ATA
09-22-EL-AEM
09-23-EL-AAM

PUCO

**APPLICATION FOR REHEARING
OF
NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC, ET AL.
[formerly known as FPL Energy, LLC]**

NextEra Energy Resources, LLC;¹ FPL Energy Power Marketing, LLC; Gexa Energy Holdings, LLC; and Gexa Energy – Ohio, LLC (collectively, “NextEra”) seek rehearing of the Finding and Order issued January 14, 2009, pursuant to section 4903.10, Ohio Revised Code, and rule 4901-1-35, Ohio Administrative Code. The Finding and Order grants Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company the authority to accrue and defer for subsequent recovery a portion of its SSO generation costs. For the reasons more fully discussed in the attached memorandum in support, NextEra respectfully submits that the Commission’s Finding and Order is unlawful and unreasonable in the following respects:

- A. The Order Violates the Pro-Competitive Policies of Section 4928.02, Ohio Rev. Code.**
- B. The Order Violates the Non-Discrimination Provisions of Section 4905.35, Ohio Rev. Code.**
- C. The Order Violate Ohio’s Policy to Encourage and Promote Large-Scale Governmental Aggregation Contained in Section 4928.20(K), Ohio Rev. Code.**

¹ NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, was formerly known as FPL Energy, LLC. Its affiliates include FPL Energy Power Marketing, LLC; Gexa Energy Holdings, LLC; and Gexa Energy - Ohio, which are the entities that have intervened in these proceedings and are jointly referred to herein as “NextEra.”

Wherefore, NextEra respectfully requests that the Commission grant this application for rehearing and deny FirstEnergy's² request for authority to accrue and defer SSO generation costs. In the alternative, NextEra requests the Commission to provide the deferral to SSO and competitive retail electric service ("CRES") customers alike.

Although NextEra's intervention has yet to be granted, it has been adversely affected by the Commission's January 14, 2009, Finding and Order as discussed in the accompanying memorandum. Accordingly, NextEra has the right to file this application for rehearing pursuant to section 4903.10, Ohio Rev. Code, as the January 14, 2009, Finding and Order was issued in an uncontested proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,



Dane Stinson, Esq.
BAILEY CAVALIERI LLC
10 West Broad Street, Suite 2100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 221-3155 (telephone)
(614) 221-0479 (fax)
Dane.Stinson@BaileyCavalieri.com
Attorney for NextEra

² The applicant electric distribution utilities in these proceedings (Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company) collectively will be referred to as "FirstEnergy."

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, is a nationally recognized supplier of electric power. It is a subsidiary of the FPL Group, a Fortune 500 company that is rated "A" both by Standard & Poors and Fitch Ratings, and operates approximately 40,000 MWs of generation assets in the United States. Its affiliates include:

- Florida Power & Light Company, the largest electric utility in the State of Florida;
- Gexa Energy Holdings, LLC, whose subsidiaries are licensed to provide competitive retail electric service in most of the major deregulated electricity markets in the United States; and
- Gexa Energy Ohio, LLC, a competitive retail electric service ("CRES") provider recently certified to provide CRES in this state.³

NextEra has executed a letter of intent to provide electric supply to the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), a large-scale governmental aggregation in Northeastern Ohio with approximately 600,000 eligible customers in Ohio Edison's and Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company's service territories.⁴ NextEra and NOPEC are in the process of finalizing a full requirements power supply agreement to serve NOPEC's load, commencing in April 2009. Because the deferrals authorized in this proceeding will continue indefinitely, *i.e.*, until a new SSO is approved pursuant to sections 4928.142 or 4928.143, Ohio Rev. Code,⁵ NextEra's ability to serve NOPEC's customers will be substantially jeopardized if FirstEnergy's authority to defer generation costs applies only to SSO customers.

³ See, *In the Matter of the Application of Gexa Energy Ohio, LLC for Authority to Operation as a Competitive Retail Electric Service Provider*, PUCO Case No. 09-1081-EL-CRS (Certificate Issued October 20, 2008).

⁴ See *In the Matter of the Application of the Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to Section 4928.143, Revised Code, in the form of an Electric Security Plan*, Case No. 08-935-EL-SSO (hereafter, "*ESP Proceeding*"), FPL Energy Ex. 1, Attachment A.

⁵ See Application, at Paragraph 8.

Indeed, NextEra intervened and actively participated in FirstEnergy's ESP Proceeding to prevent FirstEnergy from adopting a similarly anti-competitive deferral. In the ESP Proceeding, FirstEnergy sought to defer a portion of generation rates for its SSO customers through a generation phase-in credit ("GPIC"), without offering a similar deferral to CRES customers.⁶ See ESP Proceeding, FPL Energy Initial Brief, Case No. 08-935-EL-SSO, at 14-19. Fortunately, Commission Staff witness Cahaan recognized the anti-competitive effects of FirstEnergy's generation deferral proposal⁷ and the Commission ultimately disapproved it. ESP Proceeding (Opinion and Order, December 19, 2008), at 13-17, 23-25.

Because the Commission modified FirstEnergy's ESP by its Opinion and Order issued December 19, 2008, FirstEnergy subsequently withdrew its application on December 22, 2008. Without an approved MRO in place, the Commission required FirstEnergy to file new tariffs to continue its existing SSO, and directed First Energy to eliminate existing fuel cost recovery riders from the tariffs. The Commission suggested that FirstEnergy apply for the approval of a new rider, pursuant to section 4928.143(C)(2)(b), Ohio Rev. Code, to recover its purchased power costs incurred through its recent competitive bid process. The successful bidders from the auction will provide generation to serve SSO customers through an initial term ending March 31, 2009. ESP Proceeding, Finding and Order (January 7, 2009), at Paragraph 18.

On January 9, 2009, FirstEnergy filed its application to implement a new rider, Rider FUEL, to recover its purchased power costs. Rider FUEL is designed to recover the amount

⁶ NextEra also intervened in FirstEnergy's market rate option ("MRO") proceeding; however, no proposal was made to defer generation costs in that case. The Commission disapproved FirstEnergy's MRO application, requiring it to file another application if it wished to pursue an MRO as the SSO. *In the Matter of the Application of the Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company for Approval of a Market Rate Offer to Conduct a Competitive Bidding Process for Standard Service Offer Electric Generation Supply, Accounting Modifications Associated with Reconciliation Mechanism, and Tariffs for Generation Service*, Case No. 08-936-EL-SSO (Opinion and Order, November 25, 2008).

⁷ In his testimony, Staff witness Cahaan recommended that the GPIC be disallowed, stating that it caused too many difficulties and distortions (Staff Ex. 6, at 3), including the obvious distortions to the SSO price that affects marketers' ability to compete. ESP Proceeding, Tr. IX, at 163.

equal to the difference in the costs First Energy's operating companies incur to purchase power for customers receiving SSO service and the unbundled generation revenues set forth in the operating companies' current rate plan. In its application, FirstEnergy sought authority to accrue and defer for later recovery the under collection of costs (including carrying charges thereon) incurred in the operation of Rider Fuel's reconciliation mechanism. Application, at Paragraph 17. By its Finding and Order of January 14, 2009, the Commission denied FirstEnergy's request for such authority as to Toledo Edison and Ohio Edison; however, it granted authority for the deferral and subsequent recovery of SSO generation costs with respect to Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company ("CEI"), stating:

...we find that CEI should be granted the appropriate accounting authority to defer, with carrying costs, any amount for such purchased power that exceeds the authorized amount in Rider FUEL for future recovery plus the current unbundled generation revenues for CEI's customer classes as set out in the Companies' current rate plan.

See Finding and Order, at Paragraph 11. FirstEnergy made the tariff filing on January 16, 2009.

If the deferrals are authorized only for SSO generation rates, FirstEnergy will succeed in doing in this proceeding what it was prevented from doing in the ESP Proceeding – implementing an anti-competitive deferred generation charge for SSO customers only. The harm to NextEra, and all CRES providers, is immediate and substantial⁸ in that the anti-competitive proposal:

⁸ The Commission has indicated that the reasonableness of the deferral and recovery thereof will be examined and addressed in a future proceeding. January 14, 2009 Finding and Order, at Paragraph 12. The immediate and substantial harm that NextEra, and all CRES providers, will suffer if an SSO-only deferral is allowed must be addressed swiftly in the context of clarification or entry on rehearing. See *Ohio Consumers' Counsel v. Pub. Util. Comm.* (2006), 111 Ohio St. 3d 384, 2006 Ohio 5853, 856 N.E.2d 940 (a party may argue that harm resulted from an accounting order that the party claims was unlawful and unreasonable).

- 1) will provide an artificially low SSO price against which CRES providers will be unable to compete, preventing them from entering Ohio's market; and
- 2) place CRES providers at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis FirstEnergy's SSO suppliers.

NextEra respectfully requests that the Commission grant this application for rehearing and deny FirstEnergy's request for authority to accrue and defer SSO generation costs. In the alternative, NextEra requests the Commission to provide the deferral to SSO and CRES customers alike.

II. ARGUMENT

A. The Deferral as Proposed Violates the Pro-Competitive Policies of Section 4928.02(B) and (C), Ohio Rev. Code; the Non-Discrimination Provisions of Section 4905.35, Ohio Rev. Code; and Ohio's Policy to Encourage and Promote Large-Scale Governmental Aggregation Contained in Section 4928.20(K), Ohio Rev. Code.

The Ohio Legislature has made clear that it is the policy of this state to promote competition in the provision of electric supplies and suppliers. In this regard, section 4928.02, Ohio Rev. Code, provides, in part:

It is the policy of this state to do the following throughout this state :

(B) Ensure the availability of unbundled and comparable retail electric service that provides consumers with the supplier, price, terms, conditions, and quality options they elect to meet their respective needs;

(C) Ensure diversity of electricity supplies and suppliers, by giving consumers effective choices over the selection of those supplies and suppliers and by encouraging the development of distributed and small generation facilities;

Moreover, the Ohio Legislature has made it the policy of this state to promote and encourage large-scale governmental aggregation. Section 4928.20(K), Ohio Rev. Code, provides in part:

The commission shall adopt rules to encourage and promote large-scale governmental aggregation in this state.

In addition, section 4905.35, Ohio Rev. Code, prevents discrimination by a public utility.

It provides, in part:

(A) No public utility shall make or give any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any person, firm, corporation, or locality, or subject any person, firm, corporation, or locality to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage.

The deferral of generation charges only for SSO customers would prevent CRES providers from entering Ohio's market, and specifically would prevent NextEra from serving NOPEC's customers. In supplying FirstEnergy's SSO customers, suppliers would obtain their electric supply at market prices, as would CRES providers in serving their customers. However, if FirstEnergy is permitted to discount the SSO market rates by deferring a portion of the generation costs, SSO rates would become artificially lower than the market rates CRES providers would be required to charge. The disparity in pricing would be a barrier to customer shopping, and the absence of customers' willingness to shop would preclude CRES providers from entering Ohio's markets. An SSO-only deferral is anti-competitive and clearly violates sections 4928.02(B) and (C), and section 4928.20(K), Ohio Rev. Code.

Similarly, in authorizing an SSO-only deferral, FirstEnergy would pay its SSO suppliers the market price for their supply, and FirstEnergy would assume the suppliers' obligation to finance and collect the future revenues created by the deferrals. On the other hand, if CRES providers were to attempt to compete with the SSO by matching FirstEnergy's deferrals, they would be required to finance and collect their future revenues. An SSO-only deferral clearly provides a significant economic benefit to SSO suppliers vis-à-vis CRES providers and is anti-competitive and unlawful pursuant to sections 4928.02(B) and (C), and section 4928.20(K), Ohio Rev. Code. Moreover, an SSO-only deferral discriminates against CRES providers vis-à-vis

their SSO supplier-competitors and is unlawful under section 4905.35, Ohio Rev. Code.

NextEra respectfully requests the Commission to grant rehearing and prohibit all FirstEnergy operating companies, including CEI, from accruing and deferring a portion of their SSO generation costs. Significantly, FirstEnergy sought a similar deferral of SSO generation rates in the ESP Proceeding, without offering a similar deferral to CRES customers. Fortunately, Commission Staff witness Cahaan recognized the anti-competitive effects of FirstEnergy's generation deferral proposal, stating that it caused too many difficulties and distortions (ESP Proceeding, Staff Ex. 6, at 3), including the obvious distortions to the SSO price that affects marketers' ability to compete. ESP Proceeding, Tr. IX, at 163. He recommended that the Commission disapprove the proposal, which the Commission ultimately did. ESP Proceeding (Opinion and Order, December 19, 2008), at 13-17, 23-25. NextEra submits that the deferral FirstEnergy proposes in this proceeding is anti-competitive for the same reasons as recognized by Staff witness Cahaan, and urges the Commission to grant rehearing and deny the SSO-only deferral proposal, as it did in the ESP Proceeding.

B. Alternatively, to Prevent the Anti-Competitive and Discriminatory Effect of the Deferral of SSO Generation Costs, the Deferral of Generation Rates Must be Universally Applied to SSO and CRES Rates Alike.

Alternatively, to prevent the anti-competitive and discriminatory effect of an SSO-only deferral, the Commission must clarify that the proposed deferral be made universally available to SSO and CRES generation customers. The Commission could do so by ordering FirstEnergy to provide CRES customers with a credit on their bills in the same amount of the SSO deferral, as proposed by NOPEC/NOAC witness Frye in the ESP Proceeding. See ESP Proceeding, Joint NOPEC/NOAC Ex. 1, at 9. The credit amount would be deferred and recovered in the same

manner as the SSO deferrals, as a rider to distribution rates.⁹

NextEra is mindful of section 4928.02(H), Ohio Rev. Code, and the Ohio Supreme Court's decision in *Elyria Foundry Co. v. Pub. Util. Comm.* (2007), 114 Ohio St. 3d 305, 2007 Ohio 4164, 871 N.E.2d 1176 (hereafter, "*Elyria Foundry*"), which preclude the recovery of generation-related costs through distribution rates in certain situations. Neither applies to the NextEra's proposal.

In *Elyria Foundry*, the Commission had issued an order, similar to that in this proceeding, which allowed FirstEnergy to defer fuel costs in excess of those forecast under the fuel cost recovery mechanism. The deferred costs were to be subsequently recovered as part of future distribution rates from all distribution customers, even those that did not take SSO service. The Court found that recovery of SSO generation rates from non-SSO customers constituted an unlawful (*i.e.*, anti-competitive) subsidy of competitive generation rates by a noncompetitive service in violation of section 4928.02(G), Ohio Rev. Code.¹⁰ *Id.*, 114 Ohio St. 3d, at 314-315. Significantly, *Elyria Foundry*'s prohibitions do not apply to NextEra's proposal, because non-SSO (*i.e.*, CRES) customers will not be called upon to subsidize SSO generation rates. Rather, because the amounts to be deferred and recovered are the same for SSO and CRES customers, no subsidy, and certainly no *anti-competitive* subsidy, will exit.

After the Court's decision in *Elyria Foundry*, the Ohio Legislature amended section 4928.02, Ohio Rev. Code. Section 4928.02(G), at issue in *Elyria Foundry*, became current section 4928.02(H), which was amended with the italicized language below to codify *Elyria*

⁹ Interestingly, FirstEnergy opposed the NOPEC/NOAC proposal in the ESP Proceeding, claiming that it was not required to "finance" other suppliers' deferrals. See FirstEnergy Reply Brief, ESP Proceeding, at 32. Of course, this is precisely what FirstEnergy is proposing in this proceeding. Having agreed to assume the obligations of SSO suppliers' deferrals, FirstEnergy should not be heard to complain of the supposed burdens of assuming the obligations CRES' deferrals. Indeed, as stated above, not to assume the obligations would be discriminatory and unlawful.

¹⁰ Section 4928.02(G), Ohio Rev. Code, is the forerunner of current section 4928.02(H), Ohio Rev. Code.

Foundry:

It is the policy of this state to do the following throughout this state :

(H) Ensure effective competition in the provision of retail electric service by avoiding anticompetitive subsidies flowing from a noncompetitive retail electric service to a competitive retail electric service or to a product or service other than retail electric service, and vice versa, *including by prohibiting the recovery of any generation-related costs through distribution or transmission rates.*

Emphasis supplied. Clearly, the italicized portion of the statute does not impose a blanket prohibition on the recovery of generation-related costs through distribution rates. Rather, when read in the context of the entire statute¹¹ and the Legislature's intent to codify *Elyria Foundry*,¹² it is readily apparent that the prohibition is triggered only when recovery of generation-related costs through distribution rates creates an anti-competitive subsidy. Under NextEra's proposal, no anti-competitive subsidy exists.

That the Ohio Legislature did not intend for section 4928.02(H), Ohio Rev. Code, to serve as a blanket prohibition on the recovery of generation-related charges through distribution rates is further made evident by the contemporaneously enacted section 4928.144, Ohio Rev. Code, which permits the recovery of deferred charges, including generation charges, from all distribution customers.¹³ To the extent that sections 4928.02(H) and 4928.144, Ohio Rev. Code,

¹¹ See section 1.47, Ohio Rev. Code ("In enacting a statute, it is presumed that *** the entire statute is intended to be effective.").

¹² See section 1.49, Ohio Rev. Code.

¹³ Section 4928.144, Ohio Rev. Code, provides:

The public utilities commission by order may authorize any just and reasonable phase-in of any electric distribution utility rate or price established under sections 4928.141 to 4928.143 of the Revised Code, and inclusive of carrying charges, as the commission considers necessary to ensure rate or price stability for consumers. If the commission's order includes such a phase-in, the order also shall provide for the creation of regulatory assets pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles, by authorizing the deferral of incurred costs equal to the amount not collected, plus carrying charges on that amount. Further, the order shall authorize the collection of those deferrals through a nonbypassable surcharge on any such rate or price so established for the electric distribution utility by the commission.

conflict, they must be construed such that effect is given to both statutes. See section 1.51, Ohio Rev. Code. The statutes can only be reconciled, and both be given effect, through the construction that the recovery of deferred generation costs through distribution rates is permissible as long as no anti-competitive subsidy is created. As stated above, NextEra's proposal does not create an anti-competitive subsidy. Indeed, the contrary is true – the intent of the universal application of the deferral mechanism is to promote competition.

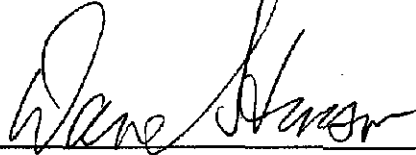
As NextEra explained in the ESP Proceeding, the Maryland Public Service Commission adopted a similar deferral recovery mechanism by approving a rate stabilization plan that allowed residential customers, including customers served by a competitive retail electric supplier, to choose a pricing option that provides a gradual transition to market rates. The Maryland Commission's order provided for a deferral credit to be applied to the customers' distribution service which would then be managed and administered by the utility, Baltimore Gas & Electric. See *In the Matter of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Proposal to Implement a Rate Stabilization Plan Pursuant to Section 7-548 of the Public Utility Companies Article and the Commission's Inquiry Into Factors Impacting Wholesale Electricity Rates*, Case No. 9099, Public Service Commission of Maryland, Order No. 81423, Issued May 23, 2007. See, also, ESP Proceeding, FPL Energy Ex. 1, Attachment B (Fact Sheet on "Optional Rate Stabilization Plan for BGE's Residential Electric Customers," Case No. 9099, Public Service Commission of Maryland, Order 81423, May 23, 2007, Page 2).¹⁴

¹⁴ In its reply brief in the ESP Proceeding, FirstEnergy challenged this statement of the Baltimore Gas & Electric case, citing only the recollection of another marketer as to the Maryland Commission's action. FirstEnergy Reply Brief at 32. NextEra submits that upon a thorough reading of the Maryland decision, the Commission will concur that CRES generation charges were eligible for deferral and subsequent collection in distribution rates.

III. CONCLUSION

NextEra respectfully requests that the Commission grant this application for rehearing and deny FirstEnergy's request for authority to accrue and defer SSO generation costs. In the alternative, NextEra requests the Commission to provide the deferral to SSO and CRES customers alike.

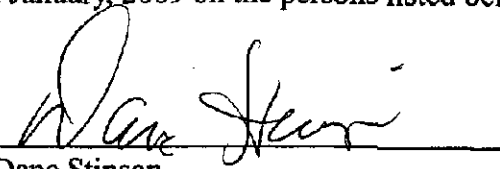
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dane Stinson", is written over a horizontal line.

Dane Stinson, Esq.
BAILEY CAVALIERI LLC
10 West Broad Street, Suite 2100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 221-3155 (telephone)
(614) 221-0479 (fax)
Dane.Stinson@BaileyCavalieri.com
Attorney for NextEra

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Request for Clarification or, In the Alternative, Application for Rehearing of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC was served by electronic mail this 26th day of January, 2009 on the persons listed below.


Dane Stinson

James W. Burk/Mark Hayden
Arthur Korkosz/Ebony Miller
FirstEnergy Service Company
76 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308
burkj@firstenergycorp.com
haydenm@firstenergycorp.com
korkosz@firstenergycorp.com
millere@firstenergycorp.com
David A. Kutik

Jones Day
North Point, 901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
dakutik@jonesday.com

Mark A. Whitt/Andrew Campbell
Jones Day
325 John H. McConnell Blvd, Ste 600
Columbus, Ohio 43215
mawhitt@jonesday.com
ajcampbell@jonesday.com

David I. Fein
Vice President, Energy Policy - Midwest
Constellation Energy Group, Inc.
550 West Washington, Blvd., Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60661
david.fein@constellation.com

Nolan Moser
Air & Energy Program Manager
The Ohio Environmental Council
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43212-3449
nmoser@theOEC.org

Jeffrey L. Small, Counsel of Record
Jacqueline Lake Roberts
Richard C. Reese
Gregory J. Poulos
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
small@occ.state.oh.us
roberts@occ.state.oh.us
reese@occ.state.oh.us
poulos@occ.state.oh.us

Cynthia A. Fonner
Senior Counsel
Constellation Energy Resources, LLC
550 West Washington, Blvd., Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60661
cynthia.a.fonner@constellation.com

Trent A. Dougherty
Staff Attorney
The Ohio Environmental Council
1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43212-3449
trent@theOEC.org

Gary A. Jeffries
Senior Counsel
Dominion Retail, Inc.
501 Martindale Street, Suite 400
Pittsburgh Pa 15212-5817
Gary.A.Jeffries@dom.com

Ohio Energy Group
David F. Boehm, Esq.
Michael L. Kurtz, Esq.
BOEHM, KURTZ & LOWRY
36 East Seventh Street, Suite 1510
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
dboehm@BKLLawfirm.com
mikurtz@BKLLawfirm.com

David C. Rinebolt
Colleen L. Mooney
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
231 West Lima Street
P.O. Box 1793
Findlay, Ohio 45839-1793
drinebolt@aol.com
cmooney2@columbus.rr.com

Nucor Steel Marion, Inc.
Garrett A. Stone
Counsel of Record
Michael K. Lavanga
Brickfield, Burchette, Rifts & Stone, P.C.
1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
8th Floor, West Tower
Washington, D.C. 20007
gas@bbrslaw.com
mkl@bbrslaw.com

Craig G. Goodman
President
National Energy Marketers Association
3333 K Street NW, Suite 110
Washington, D.C. 20007
cgoodman@energymarketers.com

Dominion Retail
Barth E. Royer
33 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3927
barthroyer@aol.com

The Kroger Company
John W. Bentine, Esq.
Mark S. Yurick, Esq.
Matthew S. White, Esq.
Chester, Willcox & Saxbe LLP
65 East State Street, Suite 1000
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4213
jbentine@cwslaw.com
myurick@cwslaw.com
mwhite@cwslaw.com

Industrial Energy Users-Ohio
Samuel C. Randazzo (Counsel of Record)
Lisa G. McAlister
Daniel J. Neilsen
Joseph M. Clark
MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK LLC
21 East State Street, 17th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
sam@mwncmh.com
lmcalister@mwncmh.com
dneilsen@mwncmh.com
jclark@mwncmh.com

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
Lance Keiffer
Assistant Prosecutor, Lucas County
711 Adams Street, 2nd Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43624-1680
lkeiffer@co.lucas.oh.us

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
Sheila H. McAdams
Law Director
Marsh & McAdams
204 West Wayne Street
Maumee, Ohio 43537
sheilahmca@aol.com

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
Paul S. Goldberg, Law Director
Phillip D. Wurster, Asst. Law Dir.
5330 Seaman Road
Oregon, Ohio 43616
pgoldberg@ci.oregon.oh.us

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
Paul Skaff, Assistant Village Solicitor
Leatherman, Witzler
353 Elm Street
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
paulskaff@justice.com

Richard L. Sites
General Counsel and Senior Director of
Health Policy
Ohio Hospital Association
155 East Broad Street, 15th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3620
ricics@ohanet.org

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
Leslie A. Kovacik
Senior Attorney, City of Toledo
420 Madison Ave., Suite 100
Toledo, Ohio 43604-1219
leslie.kovacik@toledo.oh.gov

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
Brian J. Ballenger
Law Director
Ballenger & Moore
3401 Woodville Rd., Suite C
Toledo, Ohio 43619
ballengerlawbjb@sbcglobal.net

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
James E. Moan, Law Director
4930 Holland-Sylvania Road
Sylvania, Ohio 43560
jimmohan@hotmail.com

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
Thomas H. Hays, Solicitor
3315 Centennial Road, Suite A-2
Sylvania, Ohio 43560
hayslaw@buckeye-express.com

John Jones
William Wright
Office of the Ohio Attorney General
Public Utilities Section
180 East Broad Street, 9th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
john.jones@puc.state.oh.us
william.wright@puc.state.oh.us

Neighborhood Environmental Coalition,
The Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland,
United Clevelanders Against Poverty,
Cleveland Housing Network and The
Consumers For Fair Utility Rates
Joseph P. Meissner
Cleveland Legal Aid Society
1223 West Sixth Street
Cleveland, OH 44113
jpmeissn@lasclev.org

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council and Ohio
Schools Council
Glenn S. Krassen
Bricker & Eckler LLP
1375 East Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1718
gkrassen@bricker.com

Larry Gearhardt
Chief Legal Counsel
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
280 North High Street,
P.O. Box 182383
Columbus, OH 43218-2383
LGearhardt@ofbf.org

Citizen Power, Inc., David Hughes,
Kelli O'Neill and Ronald O'Connell
Theodore S. Robinson
Citizen Power
2121 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
robinson@citizenpower.com

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association
Langdon D. Bell
Bell & Royer Co., LPA
33 South Grant Avenue
Columbus OH 43215-3927
LBELL33@aol.com

The Natural Resources Defense Council
and the Sierra Club
Henry W. Eckhart
50 West Broad Street #2117
Columbus, Ohio 43215
henryeckhart@aol.com

Sean W. Vollman
David A. Muntean
Assistant Directors of Law
161 S. High Street, Suite 202
Akron, Ohio 44308
Vollmse@ci.akron.oh.us
Munteda@ci.akron.oh.us

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council and Ohio
Schools Council
Brett Breitschwerdt
Bricker & Eckler LLP
100 South Third Street
Columbus OH 43215
bbreitschwerdt@bricker.com

The Ohio Environmental Council
Barth E. Royer
33 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3927
barthrover@aol.com

Kevin Schmidt
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association
33 North High Street
Columbus OH 43215-3005
Kschmidt@ohiomfg.com

Omnisource Corporation
Damon E. Xenopoulos, Esq.
Shaun C. Mohler, Esq.,
Brickfield, Burchette, Ritts & Stone, P.C.
1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
8th Floor, West Tower
Washington, D.C. 20007
dex@bbrslaw.com
shaun.mohler@bbrslaw.com

Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc.
Gregory K. Lawrence
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
glawrence@mwe.com

Eric D. Weldele
Tucker Ellis & West LLP
1225 Huntington Center
41 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
Eric.welde@tuckerellis.com

Direct Energy Services, LLC;
Constellation NewEnergy and
Constellation Energy Commodities
Group; Integrys Energy; National Energy
Marketers Assoc.
M. Howard Petricoff
Stephen M. Howard
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP
52 East Gay Street
P. O. Box 1008
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1008
mhpetricoff@vorys.com
smhoward@vorys.com

The Commercial Group
Douglas M. Mancino
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
2049 Century Park East, Suite 3800
Los Angeles, California 90067-3218
dmancino@mwe.com

Steve Millard
President and Executive Director
The Council of Smaller Enterprises
The Higbee Building
100 Public Square, Suite 201
Cleveland, OH 44113
smillard@cose.org

Material Sciences Corporation
Craig I. Smith
Attorney at Law
2824 Coventry Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44120
wis29@yahoo.com

Steven Huhman
Vice President
Morgan Stanley Capital Group Inc.
200 Westchester Avenue
Purchase, NY 10577
Steven.Huhman@morganstanley.com

Robert J. Triozzi
Director of Law, City of Cleveland
Steven Beeler
Assistant Director of Law,
City of Cleveland
Gregory H. Dunn
Christopher L. Miller
Andre T. Porter
Schottenstein Zox & Dunn Co., LPA
250 West Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
gdunn@szd.com
cmiller@szd.com
aporter@szd.com

The Commercial Group
Grace C. Wung
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
600 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
gwung@mwe.com