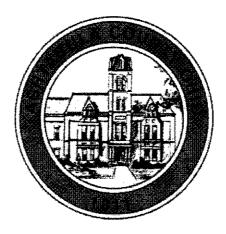


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ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Peggy Carlo Joe Moroski Daniel R. Claypool



25 W. Jefferson Street Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1092 Ph: (440) 576-3750 Fax: (440) 576-2344 commissioners@ashtabulacounty.us

PUCO

October 15, 2012

PUCO Attn: Todd Snitcher, Chairman 180 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Docketing Case Number 12-1494-EL-AEC

Dear Chairman Snitcher:

The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners is writing in support of ASHTA Chemicals Inc., application to the PUCO to obtain a reasonable arrangement with First Energy. With over one hundred employees who account for an annual payroll of more than \$8 million, ASHTA is one of the major employers in our area. In fact, with the approval of this reasonable arrangement, ASHTA has expressed its commitment to expend approximately \$50 million in new capital investment which will institute state of the art manufacturing technology and retain more than ninety full time, well-paying jobs in our community.

With its corporate offices and manufacturing base in Ashtabula, ASHTA contributes nearly \$500,000 a year in support of our local communities through its payment of state and local taxes in Ohio. In order for ASHTA to continue to grow, maintain and modernize its Ashtabula manufacturing facility, a reasonable arrangement must be approved by the PUCO.

In these challenging economic times, it is critical we work together to retain and create jobs wherever we can. As representatives of Ashtabula County, our deeply held concern is that without the approval of this proposal by the PUCO, ASHTA simply will not invest in our region and our state and make investment decisions elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHTA Chemicals, Inc. application. It is our hope that you and the PUCO will approve this application. Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you need to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS llones

Peggy Carlo President

/Joe Moroski Commissioner

Daniel Claypool Commissioner

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