PLEASE DOCKET IN CASE NO: 14-1297-EL-SSO



PUCO Docketing Division
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Chairman Thomas W. Johnson Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 E. Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793 2014 OCT 30 AM 10: 10 PUCO

Re: Electric Security Plan of Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and The Toledo Edison Company, Case No: 14-1297-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Johnson:

I support the FirstEnergy utilities' Economic Stability Program proposed in PUCO Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO.

As an employee of FirstEnergy, I believe the Economic Stability Program is essential to ensuring reliable, affordable service for FirstEnergy utilities' customers, as well as greater certainty for our power plants and the highly skilled Ohioans they employ.

The program will help ensure economic growth and prosperity in our region by supporting Ohio jobs and fuel-diverse baseload power plants operating in Ohio. This economic development and job retention program will help keep the W. H. Sammis Plant in Stratton, Ohio, and the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Oak Harbor, Ohio, serving as strong, Ohio-based sources of energy and jobs for the 15 years of the proposed program.

The employment implications are substantial – at the plants as well as regionally and statewide. The Economic Stability Program is estimated to preserve \$1 billion annually in statewide economic benefits, nearly 3,000 direct and indirect jobs, and more than \$52 million in annual state and local property and income taxes. The program also is projected to benefit Ohio's economy by saving FirstEnergy customers \$2 billion over the 15-year period.

FirstEnergy has been an active partner and supporter of economic development efforts in Ohio for many years. It has provided not only funding support for these efforts, but also personnel in the field to assist with job-creating projects and initiatives.

For these and other reasons, I ask that you approve the Economic Stability Program.

Timothy J. Suter

Area Manager

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cc: Chairman Thomas W. Johnson Commissioner Steven D. Lesser Commissioner Asim Z. Haque Commissioner Lynn Slaby Commissioner M. Beth Trombold

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October 20, 2014

Chairman Thomas W. Johnson The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Johnson and Commissioners,

As the JobsOhio Network Partner for Appalachian Ohio, the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG) would like to express its support for FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, Powering Ohio's Progress.

APEG's mission to promote widely shared prosperity across Appalachian Ohio. FirstEnergy's plan will help ensure the continued operation of a major employer in our region, the W.H. Sammis Plant, a 2,200-megawatt baseload power generating facility in Stratton, Ohio. It will also protect customers from electric price increases.

As of today, the long-term viability of this plant – along with the substantial economic benefits it delivers to our region and others – may be at risk. You are certainly aware that power generators like FirstEnergy have been challenged in recent years by regulatory issues and market pressures that have led to the closing of many of Ohio's largest power plants. More plant retirements are expected.

The Sammis plant plays a significant role in sustaining our region's economy. The plant directly employs more than 400 people with an annual payroll of \$34 million. FirstEnergy is also the largest taxpayer in Jefferson County, with the plant expected to generate about \$5.5 million in annual property tax revenues to local jurisdictions in 2014. The Sammis plant also supports the local economy with millions of dollars each year in vendor purchases, employee spending and property ownership.

We truly appreciate FirstEnergy's continued investment in our region, and hope you will support this plan to help Ohio become more energy independent. We recommend approval of FirstEnergy's case and ask that this testimony be docketed with Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO.

Sincerely,

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October 22, 2014

Chairman Thomas W. Johnson Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of Great Lakes Petroleum Co. and our 80 hard-working Ohio employees, I want to keep affordable and reliable electricity available to support our economy in the years ahead.

FirstEnergy has been a valuable customer of my company and I believe they have done an excellent job keeping electric prices affordable for businesses and consumers. However, FirstEnergy and others have been challenged in recent years by regulatory issues and market pressures that have led to the closing of many of Ohio's largest power plants, and more retirements are expected. I'm concerned that these factors could drive up electricity prices and affect the reliability of our service at a time when we're still recovering from a difficult economy.

We can't afford to wait on the sidelines for the market to react or the federal government to intervene. The time is now for Ohio to take action and secure our energy future.

That's why I'm urging your support of FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, *Powering Ohio's Progress*, which will help keep future price increases in check while enabling Ohio to preserve its vital energy resources. FirstEnergy's plan also provides economic development funding to help Ohio create more jobs and attract new business growth.

We truly appreciate FirstEnergy's commitment to serving Chio's energy needs, and we hope you will support this solid plan for our state's energy future. In the meantime, we would appreciate it if your staff could docket this letter as part of the record in this proceeding (14-1297-EL-SSO).

Best regards,

Jeffrey Platko, COO

cc: PUCO Chairman William H. Johnson

1-800-686-FILL (3455)

PHONE: (216) 478-0501 - FAX: (216) 514-3275 4500 RENAISSANCE PARKWAY - CLEVELAND, OH 44128

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Welcome Center - West

770 S.E. Catawba Rd.

www.Shoresandislands.com Port Clinton, OH 43452

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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 East Broad Street Columbus, 0H 43215

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EAST: 4424 Milan Road, Ste. A. Sandusky, OH 44870 Phone: 419-625-2984 or 1-800-255-3743 Fax: 419-625-500 Phone: 419-625-2984 or 1-800-255-3743 Fax: 419-734-979 WEST: 770 S.E. Catawba Rd. - Port Clinton, OH 43452 - Phone: 419-625-2984 or 1-800-255-3743 Fax: A19-625-3749 Fax: A19-734-979

October 23, 2014

The Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor State of Ohio 77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

I recently learned that the long-term viability and therefore the jobs and economic impact of First Energy's Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant are at risk. This 900-megawatt electric generating facility is located in Ottawa County and produces a carbon-free, constant source of power for our region and state.

The plant employs more than 750 individuals from throughout Northwest Ohio and often hires thousands of additional workers for ongoing maintenance and refueling projects. Annual economic impact of the facility for Ottawa County is more than \$387 million.

As a representative of the area's tourism industry I know that reliable electricity is an expectation of the nearly two million visitors who come to our county annually. In their minds, the lights will always come on, there will always be a working plug for their appliances, and their other power needs will be met as well.

Visitors to this county spend nearly \$350 million annually that supports hundreds of businesses and thousands of jobs. These are the things that are at risk from just the tourism sector of Ottawa County's economy. Our manufacturing and industrial operations are certainly also at great risk if reliable power is not maintained.

It is my understanding that FirstEnergy Corporation has submitted a proposal to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio called Powering Ohio's Progress. On behalf of the Ottawa County Visitors Bureau. I wish to express our organization's support for a thorough review of this proposal.

Thank you for your ongoing support for Ohio's tourism industry and your work to ensure Ohio remains a premier location for existing and future businesses. Please feel free to contact me at 419.734.4386 or email to larry@shoresandislands.com.

Sincerely,

June 1 Larry Fletcher

Executive Director

Lake Erie Shores & Islands West

Ottawa County Visitors Bureau

ce; Public Utilities Commission of Ohio