

# OTTAWA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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14-1299-EL-S80

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October 28, 2014

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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Mr. Thomas W. Johnson  
Chairman, PUCO  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We would like to take this opportunity to urge your support of FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, *Powering Ohio's Progress*. There are many reasons why we support FirstEnergy's plan:

1. Maintains public safety and wellbeing
2. Preserves significant, reliable base load electricity generated in Ohio
3. Provides stability to the deregulation process and long term affordability of electricity in Ohio
4. Nuclear power does not generate any carbon emissions
5. Contributes to Ohio's economic development

We believe the plan helps maintain public safety and wellbeing by preserving a significant source of reliable base load electricity generated in Ohio. The Davis Besse nuclear power plant generates electricity regardless of weather conditions or the availability of natural gas and coal. It is the most reliable source of base load electricity and it is located in Ohio close to its customers. Also, Davis Besse contributes to the progress of Ohio's air quality standards because nuclear power generates no carbon emissions.

The events of last winter's polar vortex in January, and the demands it placed on our electrical grid should demonstrate the value of the Sammis and Davis-Besse Plants. As more power plants are removed from the grid for economic and regulatory reasons, the continued operation of these two plants becomes even more critical for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

As you are likely well aware of the aforementioned polar vortex nearly caused our region to deal with rolling brown outs. In fact, Ottawa County was requested to prepare for rolling

PUCO

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brownouts as it appeared the grid manager PJM would be utilizing them because the grid was overstressed! As a rural county, dealing with rolling brownouts at any time of the year is very challenging, but dealing with them during such severe winter conditions would be even worse. The fact of the matter is that rolling brownouts, and worse yet, extended blackouts, would pose a significant threat to the safety and well-being of the public.

We also believe the plan contributes to stabilizing the price of electricity during the deregulation process and subsequent time period which has experienced market volatility. Electric rates have continued at considerable lows for about 5 years due to the decreased demand of a slowing economy and increase in natural gas generation of electricity among other market factors. Also, significant electric generation is being taken off line because of increased regulation mandates. At some point the market will react if not over react to the significant loss in reliable local electric generation by significant price increases for years to come, because the construction of electric generation plants demands large amounts of capital and time to get up and running. This plan along with other base load preservation can help prevent an extended period of time of intense inflation of electric rates in Ohio. The reliable supply of affordable electric not only impacts the safety and wellbeing of our residents but it also is crucial for our business community, especially the manufacturing industry in Ohio. Ottawa County, the region and the State all work to retain, develop and attract businesses. A reliable supply of affordable electric is an absolute necessity for business to be competitive.

There are a number of additional reasons to support FirstEnergy's plan. Those include jobs, economic benefits, and environmental reasons that not only greatly affect Ottawa County, the region and the State of Ohio. All of these are of great import and therefore we request your support.

I hope you will support this plan to ensure reliable power to the electrical grid in Ohio. In the meantime, I would appreciate it if your staff could docket this letter as part of the record in this proceeding (PUCO Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Ellen Regal".

Jo Ellen Regal, President  
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners

cc: Governor John Kasich  
First Energy