

CHARTER
STEEL

One Family. One Team.

February 4, 2016

FILE

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

Regarding: FirstEnergy Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO

Dear PUCO:

Charter Steel is one of the largest users of electricity in Ohio and we strongly support FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan.

In order for Ohio to remain competitive with large industrial manufacturing, it is imperative that energy costs remain competitive. Energy is one of our largest input costs and competitively priced electricity is critical for us to compete with steel produced in other states and countries. We also operate a steel mill in Wisconsin and electricity pricing can impact our plant loading strategy.

We know other large industrial manufacturers have similar concerns and it is imperative for any state that relies on manufacturing to have competitive energy/electricity pricing. Conversely, the loss of manufacturing due to non-competitive rates will lead to higher rates for all other users.

The current proposal that was agreed to by both FirstEnergy and PUCO staff preserves \$1 billion in annual statewide economic benefits, including tax revenues and an estimated 3,000 direct and indirect jobs created by operations at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Oak Harbor, Ohio, and the W.H. Sammis Plant in Stratton, Ohio.

The settlement also provides more than \$102 million to help low-income customers with bill payment and energy efficiency programs, along with economic development for Ohio communities.

Unlike other electric suppliers that rely on one fuel source, FirstEnergy's plan also provides an insurance policy for customers by keeping a diverse set of fuel sources available in Ohio to generate electricity. This strategy reduces the risk of more Ohio plant closures, or building costly transmission to import out-of-state energy sources that put our state at risk of higher electric prices in the years ahead.

Please approve FirstEnergy's proposed ESP and help keep large industrial manufacturing competitive in Ohio. Approval of this policy will help sustain and grow meaningful hourly wages within Ohio and keep rates lower for all Ohio energy customers.

We truly appreciate the leadership the PUCO has provided on these important issues, and we thank you for your consideration and support for FirstEnergy's plan which we believe will help safeguard Ohio's energy future.

Respectfully,



Robert Venable
President, Charter Steel

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