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Mahoning County Commissioner John A. McNally IV

2009 MAR - J PH 4: 38

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Clerk of the Board Nancy M. Laboy

County Administrator George J. Tablack

NV 210

February 27, 2009

Via Facsimile Transmission Only 614-752-8351

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Mr. Alan R. Schriber, Chairman Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 E. Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215

Office of Chairman P.U.C.O.

Dear Chairman Schriber:

I write to ask the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio act quickly and favorably upon the application for electricity (case No. 09-80-EL-AEC) from V&M Star. The application is for a reasonable arrangement for electricity between Ohio Edison Company and V&M Star. This application would also allow V&M to move forward with a plant expansion, bringing needed jobs to the area.

V&M is a producer of seamless pipe with their Ohio plant located in Youngstown. They currently employ 465 people at the facility and indirectly employ another 120 third party contractors. A successful expansion at the facility would include an estimated \$835 million capital investment which would bring an additional 250 to 300 direct jobs to the Youngstown area. V&M estimates that about 400 construction related jobs will result from the expansion as well.

During these difficult economic times, it is imperative that we work to create jobs whenever possible. The expansion of the V&M site and subsequent job creation is probable provided they can secure a reliable supply of electricity with a reasonable and predictable price. In addition, their ability to move forward is predicated upon having secure knowledge regarding price and reliability before March 2, 2009.

Again, I hope that the Commission will look favorably upon this application. The addition of these jobs will provide a needed boost to Youngstown's and the entire Mahoning Valley's struggling economy. I would like to thank you for your consideration of my comments and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to further discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

JAM IV:mm

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