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**Via E-File**

January 31, 2013

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
PUCO Docketing  
180 E. Broad Street, 10th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**In re: Case No. 11-5201-EL-RDR**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please find attached the DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DENNIS W. GOINS, Ph.D. ON BEHALF OF THE OHIO ENERGY GROUP AND NUCOR STEEL MARION e-filed today in the above-referenced matter.

Copies have been served on all parties listed on the Certificate of Service. Please place this document of file.

Respectfully yours,



David F. Boehm, Esq.  
Michael L. Kurtz, Esq.  
Jody Kyler Cohn, Esq.

**BOEHM, KURTZ & LOWRY**

MLKkew  
Encl.

Cc: Certificate of Service

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**STATE OF OHIO  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of the Review of the Alternative    )  
Energy Rider Contained in the Tariffs of        )  
Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric    )    Case No. 11-5201-EL-RDR  
Illuminating Company, and The Toledo           )  
Edison Company                                        )**

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**January 31, 2013**

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**INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

**Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, OCCUPATION, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

**A.** My name is Dennis W. Goins. I operate Potomac Management Group, an economics and management consulting firm. My business address is 5801 Westchester Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22310.

**Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND.**

**A.** I received a Ph.D. degree in economics and a Master of Economics degree from North Carolina State University. I also earned a B.A. degree with honors in economics from Wake Forest University. Following graduate school I worked as a staff economist at the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC). During my tenure at the NCUC, I testified in numerous cases involving electric, gas, and telephone utilities on such issues as cost of service, rate design, intercorporate transactions, and load

1 forecasting. While at the NCUC I also served as a member of the  
2 Ratemaking Task Force in the national Electric Utility Rate Design Study  
3 sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and the  
4 National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

5 Since leaving the NCUC, I have worked as an economic and  
6 management consultant to firms and organizations in the private and  
7 public sectors. My assignments focus primarily on market structure,  
8 policy, planning, and pricing issues involving firms that operate in energy  
9 markets. For example, I have conducted detailed analyses of product  
10 pricing, cost of service, rate design, and interutility planning, operations,  
11 and pricing issues; prepared analyses related to utility mergers,  
12 transmission access and pricing, and the emergence of competitive  
13 markets; evaluated and developed regulatory incentive mechanisms  
14 applicable to utility operations; and assisted clients in analyzing and  
15 negotiating interchange agreements and power and fuel supply contracts. I  
16 have also assisted clients on electric power market restructuring issues in  
17 Arkansas, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

18 I have submitted testimony and affidavits and provided technical  
19 assistance in nearly 200 proceedings before state and federal agencies as  
20 an expert in competitive market issues, regulatory policy, utility planning  
21 and operating practices, cost of service, and rate design. These agencies  
22 include the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the  
23 Government Accountability Office, state courts in Iowa, Montana, and  
24 West Virginia, and regulatory agencies in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas,  
25 Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,  
26 Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota,  
27 Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio,  
28 Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West  
29 Virginia, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia. Additional details of

1 my educational and professional background are presented in the  
2 Appendix.

3 **Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU APPEARING IN THIS**  
4 **PROCEEDING?**

5 **A.** I am appearing on behalf of the Ohio Energy Group (OEG) and Nucor  
6 Steel Marion, Inc. (Nucor). OEG members and Nucor are large industrial  
7 consumers that purchase retail electric distribution service from one of the  
8 FirstEnergy operating companies—Ohio Edison Company, Cleveland  
9 Electric Illuminating Company (CEI), and Toledo Edison Company  
10 (collectively, FirstEnergy).

11 **Q. WHAT ASSIGNMENT WERE YOU GIVEN WHEN YOU WERE**  
12 **RETAINED?**

13 **A.** I was asked to undertake two primary tasks:

- 14 1. Review the audit reports, including findings and recommendations,  
15 submitted in this case by consultants retained by the Commission  
16 to examine efforts during 2009-2011 by FirstEnergy to meet its  
17 renewable energy resource obligations under Ohio's Alternative  
18 Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS). The audits were conducted by  
19 Goldenberg Schneider, LPA (Goldenberg) and Exeter Associates,  
20 Inc. (Exeter). In particular, I was asked to focus on issues  
21 addressed in the reports (either directly or indirectly) dealing with  
22 FirstEnergy's recovery of AEPS-related costs through the  
23 Alternative Energy Resource Rider (Rider AER), and the  
24 reasonableness of selected conclusions and recommendations  
25 included in the Goldenberg and Exeter audit reports.
- 26 2. Identify steps the Commission should consider to provide  
27 FirstEnergy's customers with additional protection against  
28 potentially excessive renewable energy resource costs, and reduce

1 potential disputes between FirstEnergy and nonshopping standard  
2 service offer (SSO) customers regarding the reasonableness and  
3 prudence of such costs.

4 **Q. WHAT INFORMATION DID YOU REVIEW IN CONDUCTING**  
5 **YOUR EVALUATION?**

6 **A.** I reviewed the Goldenberg and Exeter audit reports, as well as  
7 FirstEnergy's direct testimony, exhibits, and selected responses to requests  
8 for information in this case. I also reviewed, as necessary, relevant  
9 statutes and Commission orders and rules—for example, Ohio  
10 Administrative Code (OAC) 4901:1-40 and Ohio Revised Code (ORC)  
11 4928.64 and 4928.65. Finally, I reviewed publicly available information  
12 related to the issues in my testimony.

13 **CONCLUSIONS**

14 **Q. WHAT CONCLUSIONS HAVE YOU REACHED?**

15 **A.** On the basis of my review and evaluation, I have concluded the following:

- 16 1. ORC 4928.64(B)(2)-(3) specifies annual benchmarks that delineate  
17 both the percentage and composition of renewable energy  
18 resources that each electric distribution utility in Ohio must include  
19 in electricity supplied to SSO (non-shopping) customers.
- 20 2. During 2009-2011 FirstEnergy issued six requests for proposals for  
21 firms to provide up to four categories of renewable energy credits  
22 (RECs) to assist in meeting its AEPS requirements. These  
23 categories were In-State Solar RECs, All States Solar RECs, In-  
24 State All Renewables RECs, and All States All Renewables RECs.
- 25 3. As part of its ongoing review of FirstEnergy's Rider AER, the  
26 Commission retained Goldenberg and Exeter in February 2012 to  
27 review FirstEnergy's procurement of RECs to comply with

requirements under ORC 4928.64.<sup>1</sup> In August 2012, Goldenberg and Exeter filed their audit reports with the Commission.<sup>2</sup>

4. The Goldenberg and Exeter reports reached various conclusions about and provided multiple recommendations regarding FirstEnergy's procurement of RECs to meet the renewable energy resource component of its AEPS obligations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Q. WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND ON THE BASIS OF THESE CONCLUSIONS?**

**A.** I recommend that the Commission:

1. Establish a mandatory, non-discretionary annual expenditure cap limiting FirstEnergy's prudent expenditures incurred in meeting its renewable resource obligations that can be recovered through Rider AER to no more than 3 percent of its cost of producing or acquiring substitute energy.
2. Establish a rate cap limiting the Rider AER charge for each rate class to 3 percent of the applicable Rider GEN energy charge for the class.
3. In setting Rider AER charges, FirstEnergy should continue to utilize loss adjustments consistent with current practice.
4. Refund any disallowed REC costs to rate classes using the current rate design of Rider AER—that is, through loss-adjusted energy charges by rate class.

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<sup>1</sup> Under OAC 4901:1-40-04(D), an electric utility or electric services company may use RECs to satisfy all or part of a renewable energy resource (including solar) benchmark.

<sup>2</sup> See Goldenberg's *Final Report: Financial Audit 1 of the Alternative Energy Resource Rider of the FirstEnergy Ohio Utility Companies*, June 15, 2012 (Goldenberg Report) and Exeter's confidential *Final Report: Management/Performance Audit of the Alternative Energy Resource Rider (Rider AER) of the FirstEnergy Ohio Utility Companies for October 2009 through December 31, 2011*, June 15, 2012 (Exeter Report).



1                   **MANDATORY 3-PERCENT CAP ON**  
2                   **RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPENDITURES**

3   **Q.   DOES ORC 4928.64 INCLUDE ANY SPECIFIC FINANCIAL**  
4           **PROVISION THAT PROTECTS CUSTOMERS AND UTILITIES**  
5           **FROM EXCESSIVE AEPS COMPLIANCE COSTS?**

6   **A.**   Yes. I am advised by counsel that the statute provides a compliance  
7           exemption for a distribution utility (or electric service company) under  
8           specific conditions that limits the utility's financial exposure in trying to  
9           meet the annual AEPS benchmarks. More specifically, ORC  
10          4928.64(C)(3) says the following:

11                   An electric distribution utility or an electric services company  
12                   *need not comply* with a benchmark under division (B)(1) or (2)  
13                   of this section to the extent that its reasonably expected cost of  
14                   that compliance exceeds its reasonably expected cost of  
15                   otherwise producing or acquiring the requisite electricity by  
16                   three per cent or more. The cost of compliance shall be  
17                   calculated as though any exemption from taxes and assessments  
18                   had not been granted under section 5727.75 of the Revised  
19                   Code.<sup>3</sup> (Emphasis added.)

20   **Q.   COULD THE 3-PERCENT MECHANISM REFERENCED IN ORC**  
21           **4928.64 BE INTERPRETED AS A REASONABLE CAP OR**  
22           **CEILING ON FIRSTENERGY'S ANNUAL AEPS COMPLIANCE**  
23           **COSTS?**

24   **A.**   Yes. Both the statute (ORC 4928.64(C)(2)) and the Commission's  
25           regulations (OAC 4901:1-40-07 and 4901:1-40-08) refer to the 3-percent  
26           mechanism as a *cost cap*. In its comments on the cap mechanism in the  
27           rulemaking proceeding to implement S.B. 221, FirstEnergy stated:

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<sup>3</sup> ORC 4928.64(B)(1) refers to advanced energy resources, while ORC 4928.64(B)(2) refers to renewable energy resources.

1 Senate Bill 221 recognized the potentially adverse economic  
2 impact of the advanced and renewable energy benchmarks  
3 imposed by the statute and established a reasonable ceiling for  
4 the additional costs of those requirements. R.C. §  
5 4928.64(C)(3) mandates that EDUs be excused from complying  
6 with the statute's alternative energy portfolio requirements if the  
7 costs of complying with those standards exceeds by 3% or more  
8 the costs that EDUs and their customers would otherwise incur  
9 to acquire the requisite energy.<sup>4</sup>

10 In my opinion, a *cost cap* implies a limit or ceiling on payments for a  
11 product or service in a specified time period. As a result, I recommend  
12 that the Commission interpret the 3-percent mechanism as a mandatory,  
13 non-discretionary cap on the level of annual AEPS compliance costs that  
14 FirstEnergy can incur and recover from customers through Rider AER.

15 **Q. WOULD A MANDATORY 3-PERCENT CAP ON RENEWABLE**  
16 **EXPENDITURES BENEFIT CUSTOMERS AND FIRSTENERGY?**

17 **A.** Yes. A mandatory 3-percent cap on FirstEnergy's annual renewable  
18 expenditures would protect customers from potentially excessive  
19 renewable energy costs—consistent with the Legislature's intent when it  
20 included the 3-percent cap mechanism in S.B. 221. Moreover, a  
21 mandatory cap would be consistent with the Commission's rules. For  
22 example, when the Commission approved regulations applicable to the 3-  
23 percent cap, it stated that "the function of the cost cap is to protect  
24 consumers from significant increases in their electric bills."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Case No. 08-888-EL-ORD, In the Matter of the Adoption of Rules for Alternative and Renewable Energy Technology, Resources, and Climate Regulation, and Review of Chapter 4901:5-1, 4901:5-3, 4901:5-5, and 4901:5-7 of the Ohio Administrative Code, Pursuant to Chapter 4928.66, Revised Code, as Amended by Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 221, Application of Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company for Rehearing at 25-26 (May 15, 2009).

<sup>5</sup> Case No. 08-888-EL-ORD, Opinion and Order at 37 (April 15, 2009).

1   **Q.   WHAT ADDITIONAL BENEFITS WOULD A MANDATORY CAP**  
2   **PROVIDE?**

3   **A.**   A mandatory cost cap would give FirstEnergy greater pricing leverage in  
4   negotiating future REC procurements.<sup>6</sup> Also, the cost cap should reduce  
5   the potential for disputes between FirstEnergy and its customers regarding  
6   possible disallowances of any excessive, imprudent REC costs.

7   **Q.   WHY SHOULD THE 3-PERCENT EXPENDITURE CAP BE**  
8   **MANDATORY?**

9   **A.**   Protecting consumers from excessive AEPS costs would be severely  
10   undermined if the cap was discretionary—not mandatory. That is, if a  
11   utility could treat the cap simply as a benchmark or guideline and not as a  
12   firm expenditure ceiling, customers would continue to be exposed to  
13   potentially excessive renewable resource costs that are likely to rise as the  
14   renewable energy benchmarks under ORC 4928.64(B)(2) increase each  
15   year. Because the expenditure cap would be mandatory, FirstEnergy  
16   would be responsible for expenditures above the cap in a particular year.  
17   Under this provision, the expenditure cap effectively creates an annual  
18   maximum renewable energy budget for FirstEnergy.

19   **Q.   WOULD FIRSTENERGY BE SUBJECT TO A RENEWABLE**  
20   **ENERGY COMPLIANCE PAYMENT PENALTY IF THE**  
21   **MANDATORY 3-PERCENT COST CAP KEPT IT FROM**  
22   **MEETING THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE BENCHMARK?**

23   **A.**   No. If the 3-percent cost cap prevented FirstEnergy from meeting its  
24   renewable resource benchmarks, FirstEnergy would be exempt from  
25   meeting the renewable resource benchmark for that year for the amount of  
26   renewable energy in excess of the 3-percent capped amount.

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<sup>6</sup> This pricing leverage could help FirstEnergy negotiate lower prices with potential REC suppliers.

1 Q. SHOULD DEFERRED COSTS AND RELATED CARRYING  
2 CHARGES FROM PRIOR YEARS COUNT TOWARD THE  
3 ANNUAL 3-PERCENT CAP?

4 A. No. The cap should only apply to annual expenditures to meet the  
5 renewable resource benchmarks.

6 Q. HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A RECOMMENDED METHOD FOR  
7 CALCULATING FIRSTENERGY'S ANNUAL 3-PERCENT CAP  
8 ON RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE EXPENDITURES?

9 A. Yes. I recommend the following method.

- 10 ■ Set the 3-percent cost cap each January immediately following  
11 the SSO auction that establishes the SSO generation price for  
12 the following June-May period.
- 13 ■ Determine FirstEnergy's annual generation cost (\$/MWh)  
14 using the weighted average of its January-May and June-  
15 December SSO generation prices.
- 16 ■ Calculate FirstEnergy's benchmark baseline non-shopping  
17 MWh sales by averaging non-shopping sales for the previous  
18 three years.
- 19 ■ Calculate FirstEnergy's *cost to acquire requisite electricity* by  
20 multiplying its benchmark baseline non-shopping MWh sales  
21 by its annual SSO generation cost adjusted for losses.
- 22 ■ Set FirstEnergy's annual cost cap equal to 3 percent of its  
23 annual cost to acquire requisite electricity.

24 In Exhibit DWG-1, I use this estimation method and actual and assumed  
25 data to show how the 3-percent mandatory cap on FirstEnergy's allowable  
26 renewable resource expenditures for 2013 might have been calculated.

1   **Q.    WOULD THIS MANDATORY EXPENDITURE CAP BE**  
2       **RETROACTIVE?**

3   **A.**    No. I recommend that the expenditure cap only be applied prospectively.

4   **Q     IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD THE COMMISSION REQUIRE**  
5       **FIRSTENERGY TO MAKE UP IN A SUBSEQUENT YEAR ANY**  
6       **SHORTFALL OF REC PURCHASES BELOW THE ANNUAL**  
7       **BENCHMARK RESULTING FROM YOUR PROPOSED 3-**  
8       **PERCENT COST CAP?**

9   **A.**    No. I see no benefit to customers from such a requirement, which I expect  
10       would likely trigger the cost cap in subsequent years. The statute  
11       establishes a 3-percent cost cap and clearly indicates that a utility need not  
12       comply with a benchmark if doing so would cause the utility's renewable  
13       resource expenditures to exceed the cap. The statute does not require a  
14       utility to make up in future years any REC shortfall resulting from  
15       applying the cap. Having to make up REC shortfalls in future years would  
16       be inconsistent with the intent of the cap to place a reasonable limit on the  
17       cost of renewable energy.

18                               **CAP ON RIDER AER CHARGES**

19   **Q.    IS YOUR RECOMMENDED MANDATORY 3-PERCENT ANNUAL**  
20       **CAP ON RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPENDITURES SUFFICIENT**  
21       **TO PROTECT CUSTOMERS FROM HIGH RENEWABLE COSTS**  
22       **AND RENEWABLE COST VOLATILITY?**

23   **A.**    No. Additional protection is necessary. I recommend that Rider AER  
24       charges by rate class be no greater than the cost of substitute energy for  
25       each class. To achieve this objective, the Rider AER charge for each rate  
26       class should be set equal to the lesser of an uncapped AER rate (which  
27       would simply reflect unit AEPS compliance costs for the recovery period)

1 or a capped AER rate equal to specified percentage of the applicable Rider  
2 GEN energy charge for each class. I recommend an AER cap rate of 3  
3 percent to be consistent with my recommended 3-percent cap on  
4 FirstEnergy's annual renewable resource expenditures.<sup>7</sup>

5 **Q. WHY IS A CAP ON RIDER AER CHARGES BY RATE CLASS**  
6 **NECESSARY?**

7 **A.** Capping annual renewable resource expenditures may be insufficient to  
8 protect consumers from significant increases in electric bills. For  
9 example, even with a 3-percent cap on renewable expenditures, customers  
10 could wind up paying renewable costs well in excess of the cost of  
11 generation under Rider GEN. This appears to have occurred during the  
12 2009-2011 audit period. In her direct testimony, FirstEnergy witness  
13 Eileen Mikkelsen explains some of the factors underlying the high Rider  
14 AER charges in 2009-2011:

15 The Companies experienced a high level migration from SSO  
16 service to shopping starting at the time the renewable  
17 requirement was put into place....This higher level of shopping  
18 led to the Companies having to: (a) retire a disproportionately  
19 high level of renewable energy credits based on the three year  
20 baseline when shopping was much lower; and (b) then recover  
21 those associated costs over the then current but much lower  
22 non-shopping kWh.<sup>8</sup>

23 **Q. DID THESE FACTORS PRODUCE HIGH RIDER AER CHARGES**  
24 **FOR FIRSTENERGY'S CUSTOMERS?**

25 **A.** Yes. The Goldenberg Report indicates that FirstEnergy's Rider AER  
26 charges in 2009-2011 were "significantly higher" than similar charges for

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<sup>7</sup> My understanding is that FirstEnergy is currently only recovering through Rider AER the cost of complying with the renewable energy resource benchmarks. That is, no advanced energy resource costs are currently recovered through Rider AER.

<sup>8</sup> Direct Testimony of Eileen M. Mikkelsen at 10.

other Ohio investor owned utilities,<sup>9</sup> and frequently exceeded 3 percent of the corresponding Rider GEN charge. For example, as shown in Table 1 below, FirstEnergy's Rider AER quarterly charges in 2011 were around 4.5-8.5 percent higher than Rider GEN rates.

**Table 1. Rider AER vs Rider GEN (2011 cent/kWh)**

<u>CEI</u>	<u>Rider AER<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Rider GEN<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>AER/GEN</u>
Jan-Mar	0.4612	6.1290	7.52%
Apr-May	0.4699	6.1290	7.67%
Jun-Dec	0.4699	5.5600	8.45%
<b><u>Ohio Edison</u></b>			
Jan-Mar	0.2927	6.1290	4.78%
Apr-May	0.2776	6.1290	4.53%
Jun-Dec	0.2776	5.5600	4.99%
<b><u>Toledo Edison</u></b>			
Jan-Mar	0.4031	6.1290	6.58%
Apr-May	0.3695	6.1290	6.03%
Jun-Dec	0.3695	5.5600	6.65%

<sup>1</sup>Company AER rate; not loss-adjusted by rate class; see Goldenberg Report at 8.

<sup>2</sup>Blended competitive bid price; see FE response to EA Set 5-INT-4 Attachment 1.

**Q. IN YOUR OPINION, DID HIGH LOAD FACTOR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS BEAR A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THESE RIDER AER CHARGES IN 2011?**

**A.** Yes. Because Rider AER is currently a volumetric energy charge, high load factor Rate GT industrial customers bear a disproportionate share of FirstEnergy's renewable resource costs. Moreover, FirstEnergy's AER charges are not insignificant for large GT customers. (See Table 2 below.) Capping AER charges at 3 percent of Rider GEN charges would mitigate the large Rider AER bill impacts, directly link the AEPS compliance costs with the cost of substitute energy, and help stabilize Rider AER charges.

<sup>9</sup> Goldenberg Report at 9.

**Table 2. Rider AER Bill Impacts: Rate GT (Apr-Dec 2011 \$/mo.)**

<u>Usage (kWh/mo)</u>	<u>Rider AER Monthly Cost</u>		
	<u>CEI</u>	<u>OE</u>	<u>TE</u>
2,000,000	\$8,986	\$5,308	\$7,152
6,000,000	\$26,958	\$15,924	\$21,456
10,000,000	\$44,930	\$26,540	\$35,760
14,000,000	\$62,902	\$37,156	\$50,064
20,000,000	\$89,860	\$53,080	\$71,520

1

2 **Q. COULD THE 3-PERCENT CAP ON RIDER AER CHARGES**  
3 **CAUSE FIRSTENERGY TO UNDERRECOVER ITS RENEWABLE**  
4 **RESOURCE COSTS?**

5 **A.** Yes. However, any underrecovered renewable resource costs that  
6 FirstEnergy incurs because of the 3-percent cap on Rider AER charges  
7 should be deferred for recovery in a future year. Under FirstEnergy's  
8 recently-approved ESP 3, FirstEnergy can spread recovery of Rider AER  
9 costs over the term of the rate plan.<sup>10</sup> As I noted earlier, any deferrals and  
10 associated carrying costs for a prior year's expenditures would not count  
11 against the mandatory 3-percent cap on annual renewable resource  
12 expenditures.

13 **Q. IS THE 3-PERCENT CAP ON RIDER AER CHARGES LIKELY**  
14 **TO CAUSE CHRONIC UNDERRECOVERY OF FIRSTENERGY'S**  
15 **RENEWABLE RESOURCE COSTS?**

16 **A.** In my opinion, no—especially in the longer term. For example, the  
17 likelihood of large and continuing underrecoveries should diminish as the  
18 3-year non-shopping baseline load used in calculating the 3-percent  
19 expenditure cap becomes more reflective of the current level of non-

<sup>10</sup> Case No. 12-1230-EL-SSO, In the Matter of Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company for Authority to Provide for a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to Section 4928.143, Revised Code, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan, Opinion and Order at 35 (July 18, 2012).



1 shopping load, and as REC markets (particularly those for Ohio in-state  
2 RECs) continue to mature. If chronic underrecoveries became a problem  
3 for FirstEnergy, the Commission could consider a temporary modification  
4 to the 3-percent cap on Rider AER charges to reduce them.

## 5 **LOSS ADJUSTMENTS AND RIDER AER**

6 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE GOLDENBERG REPORT'S**  
7 **RECOMMENDATION TO SET RIDER AER AS A UNIFORM**  
8 **CHARGE TO RECOVER AEPS COSTS?**

9 **A.** No. Rider AER for each FirstEnergy operating company currently  
10 incorporates class-specific voltage loss factors. The Goldenberg Report's  
11 recommendation to change Rider AER for each operating company (and  
12 all rate classes) to a uniform non-voltage-differentiated volumetric charge  
13 should be rejected.

14 **Q. WHY SHOULD RIDER AER CHARGES CONTINUE TO BE**  
15 **LOSS-ADJUSTED?**

16 **A.** Reflecting loss adjustments in Rider AER:

- 17 ■ Is consistent with loss-adjusted SSO charges (Rider GEN) for  
18 energy displaced by FirstEnergy's renewable energy resources.
- 19 ■ Reflects the rate design adopted by stipulated agreement  
20 among parties in FirstEnergy's most recent Energy Security  
21 Plans (ESPs).
- 22 ■ Eliminates interclass cost subsidies that would occur under  
23 uniform AER charges.<sup>11</sup>

24 The Goldenberg Report's proposed Rider AER rate design change should  
25 be rejected.

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<sup>11</sup> For example, the Goldenberg Report (at 10) indicates that nearly \$1.2 million in Rider AER charges would be shifted to FirstEnergy's Rate GT transmission customers under the uniform AER rate proposal.

**REFUNDING ANY  
DISALLOWED REC COSTS**

**Q. DID EXETER CONCLUDE THAT FIRSTENERGY PAID ABOVE-MARKET PRICES FOR RECS IN 2009-2011?**

**A.** Yes. Exeter concluded that FirstEnergy paid unreasonably high, above-market prices for In-State All Renewable RECs even though, according to Exeter, FirstEnergy had available alternatives that were not considered.<sup>12</sup>

**Q. DID EXETER RECOMMEND DISALLOWING SOME OR ALL OF WHAT IT TERMED *EXCESSIVE [REC] COSTS*?**

**A.** Yes. Exeter recommended that the Commission examine disallowing “excessive costs associated with purchasing RECs to meet the FirstEnergy Ohio utilities’ In-State All Renewables obligations.”<sup>13</sup>

**Q. DO YOU SUPPORT EXETER’S RECOMMENDATION?**

**A.** In my opinion, the Commission should thoroughly examine the prudence of *all* REC purchases that FirstEnergy makes to comply with its AEPS obligations. I have not analyzed the prudence of FirstEnergy’s REC purchases in this case. As a result, at this time I take no position regarding whether costs associated with the specific REC purchases cited by Exeter were imprudent and should be disallowed.

**Q. IF THE COMMISSION CONCLUDES THAT SOME REC COSTS PREVIOUSLY RECOVERED BY FIRSTENERGY THROUGH RIDER AER WERE IMPRUDENT, HOW SHOULD THIS DETERMINATION BE REFLECTED IN RIDER AER?**

**A.** Any previously recovered REC costs that the Commission determines were imprudent should be refunded to FirstEnergy’s current SSO

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<sup>12</sup> Exeter Report at 31-33.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* at 33.

1 customers through Rider AER using the rider's current rate design—that  
2 is, loss-adjusted kWh charges by rate class. This requirement would  
3 ensure that all refunds would be passed back to customers in the same  
4 manner in which the disallowed REC costs were originally recovered from  
5 customers.

6 **Q. DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

7 **A.** Yes.

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**STATE OF OHIO  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of the Review of the Alternative    )  
Energy Rider Contained in the Tariffs of        )  
Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric    )    Case No. 11-5201-EL-RDR  
Illuminating Company, and The Toledo            )  
Edison Company                                        )**

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**EXHIBIT TO THE  
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
DENNIS W. GOINS, PH.D.  
ON BEHALF OF THE OHIO ENERGY  
GROUP AND NUCOR STEEL MARION**

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**January 31, 2013**

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**EXHIBIT DWG-1**

**RECOMMENDED 3-PERCENT EXPENDITURE CAP: CALCULATION METHOD**

	Calculation
Price (\$/MWh)	\$53.37
Price (\$/MWh)	\$55.27
Generation Cost	\$54.48
<b>Big MWh Sales</b>	
2010-2012) <sup>1</sup>	20,500,000
<b>Price of Electricity</b>	
Avg SSO Price (20,500,000 x \$54.48)	\$1,116,805,833
Cost <sup>1</sup>	1.05
	\$1,172,646,125
<b>AEPS Compliance</b>	
Electricity * Cap Percentage (\$1,172,646,125 x 3%)	\$35,179,384

strative purposes only.

## **APPENDIX**

### **QUALIFICATIONS OF**

**DENNIS W. GOINS**

## **DENNIS W. GOINS**

### **PRESENT POSITION**

Economic Consultant, Potomac Management Group, Alexandria, VA

### **PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

- Vice President, Hagler, Bailly & Company, Washington, DC
- Principal, Resource Consulting Group, Inc., Cambridge, MA
- Senior Associate, Resource Planning Associates, Inc., Cambridge, MA
- Economist, North Carolina Utilities Commission, Raleigh, NC

### **EDUCATION**

<b>College</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Degree</b>
Wake Forest University	Economics	BA
North Carolina State University	Economics	ME
North Carolina State University	Economics	PhD

### **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

Dr. Goins specializes in pricing, planning, and market structure issues affecting firms that buy and sell products in electricity and natural gas markets. He has extensive experience in evaluating competitive market conditions, analyzing power and fuel requirements, prices, market operations, and transactions, developing product pricing strategies, setting rates for energy-related products and services, and negotiating power supply and natural gas contracts for private and public entities. He has participated in nearly 200 cases as an expert on competitive market issues, utility restructuring, power market planning and operations, utility mergers, rate design, cost of service, and management prudence before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the General Accounting Office (now the Government Accountability Office), the First Judicial District Court of Montana, the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia, the Linn County District Court of Iowa, and regulatory commissions in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia. He has also prepared an expert report on behalf of the United States regarding pricing and contract issues in a case before the United States Court of Federal Claims.



## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail (when available) or ordinary mail, unless otherwise noted, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2013 to those parties listed below:



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Summary: Testimony Direct Testimony and Exhibits of Dennis W. Goins, Ph.D., on behalf of Ohio Energy Group (OEG) and NUCOR Steel Marion electronically filed by Mr. Michael L. Kurtz on behalf of Ohio Energy Group and Nucor Steel Marion