

FILE
Hunter, Donielle

From: ContactThePUCO@puc.state.oh.us
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 8:39 AM
To: Puco Docketing
Subject: Docketing

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

FILE
From: Art Richards <arrichards@neo.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 1:45 PM
To: reply
Subject: I support Powering Ohio's Progress

Dear Governor Kasich and Chairman Porter:

I want to keep affordable and reliable electricity available to support our economy and our region's quality of life in the years ahead.

That's why I'm writing in support of FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan, Powering Ohio's Progress. The plan will help keep future price increases in check and preserve vital power plants in Ohio. It will also provide economic development funding to help our communities create jobs and attract new business growth.

FirstEnergy has done an outstanding job delivering reliable, affordable energy to our communities. However, power companies including FirstEnergy have been challenged in recent years by environmental regulations 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 utility bills and compromise the reliability of our electric 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.

I hope you will support this solid plan for Ohio'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).

Art Richards
 Stow, Ohio

PUCO

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 Technician Ann Date Processed 7/24/15

Hunter, Donielle

From: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org> on behalf of Anthony Szilagye
<sierra@sierraclub.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 8:41 PM
To: Puco Docketing
Subject: No bailouts for coal

Jul 23, 2015

PUCO Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

I agree with the Cleveland Plain Dealer's editorial on July 18 "PUCO should reject FirstEnergy rate request" and do not support FirstEnergy's attempt to bail out its old plants on the backs of consumers. These plants are not competitive with today's market prices for electricity, and they spew toxic pollution into our air and water.

As the Plain Dealer stated, FirstEnergy's plan sounds more like "Protecting FirstEnergy Management" than anything that would be in the public interest.

Furthermore, coal, which generates nearly 70 percent of electricity in Ohio, is known to cause major air pollution and negatively impact public health while contributing to climate disruption. Due to Ohio's heavy reliance on coal, we have some of the worst air in the nation.

FirstEnergy's request to bail out plants that are no longer economically feasible is bad public policy that, in addition to costing Ohio electric customers more, will prevent Ohio from reducing dangerous emissions of carbon, soot, smog and mercury pollution.

Their proposal is quite bold given current Ohio deregulation law, the economic issues involved, the history of poor decisions affecting their ability to be competitive in an unregulated environment, and the very poor condition of their assets that ratepayers will be subsidizing.

Ohio current law favors an unregulated market. This law and its implementation has already paid First Energy nearly \$7 billion dollars in stranded costs. Due to their stocks sliding in price in the market they are back with a new scheme to have ratepayers bail them out of the failing assets of Davis Bessie and Sammis power plant. For them to expect the PUCO to approve their plan is also an expectation for the PUCO to violate existing state law. In addition to the nearly 7 billion dollars already paid to them Davis Bessie is demanding 182 million dollars per year for 15 years to keep Davis Bessie going. If the PUCO approves this plan, the PUCO will in effect abandon their mission to foster competition in a competitive and fair framework and will be rescuing First Energy from the market forces that they are not able to compete in.

This approval will also set a precedent to approve a plan that effectively violates state law. For a corporation to write a plan violating existing state law is unfair to industrial, commercial, residential, other ratepayers and the citizens of Ohio. One of First Energy's reasons for this plan has to do with the 5% of base load electricity Davis Bessie's contributes to Ohio generation capacity. The price we are paying for Energy from Davis Bessie is not competitive in an open market if it is in need of further subsidies by ratepayers.

Energy Efficiency as a resource is easily capable of decreasing demand by displacing the 5% of base load power that Davis Bessie contributes to Ohio every year. Before being sabotaged by First Energy and the Republican led legislature in SB 310, SB 221 was poised to decrease consumption of electricity in Ohio by 22% by 2025. SB 221 would have reduced gross carbon emissions by 73.5 % and saved approximately 22.2 Billion dollars for Ohio between the years 2009 and

2030. If renewables are terminated and efficiency remains locked in at 1% the dollar savings drop to 18.4 Billion dollars saved and only 34.5% reduction in carbon emissions. So First Energy has already hurt the economy and has supported increased carbon emissions by their support of SB 310.

According to American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy energy efficiency and demand response are the lowest-cost resources available.

This means that efficiency resources can begin to generate financial savings for Ohio's economy and its consumers quickly, which can then be reinvested to further stimulate Ohio's economy. A penny spent on energy efficiency is a penny spent in another part of Ohio's economy. A 22% decrease in demand would save millions of dollars that businesses, industries and consumers can use to help our economy grow in new ways.

The need to save jobs is also cited by First Energy as a reason for their rate case. However, energy efficiency and green jobs creates 17 jobs for every million dollars invested. While a million dollars spent in the nuclear and fossil fuel industry only 5 jobs are created for every million dollars invested. Robert Pollin, the President of Pear Energy and a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, has studied this matter in depth with the Department of Energy and the International Labour Organization. As his Pear Energy team writes:

"The basic facts are simple. When we invest, say, \$1 million in building the green economy, this creates about 17 jobs within the United States. By comparison, if we continue to spend as we do on fossil fuels and nuclear energy, you create only about 5 jobs per \$1 million in spending. That is, we create about 12 more jobs for every \$1 million in spending -- 300 percent more jobs -- every time we spend on building the green economy as opposed to maintaining our dependence on dirty and dangerous oil, coal, natural gas, and nuclear power."

Furthermore, the future of electricity generation in Ohio is renewable energy in the forms of wind and solar power. When the generation costs, the carbon foot print, the complete lifecycle costs of nuclear and coal power is taken into consideration renewable is by far the more economic choice. Both Davis Bessie and the Sammis coal burning power plant have multiple economic, social and environmental issues that impede their ability to be competitive and carry heavy social costs.

The Sammis plant ranks 21st as a source of CO2 emissions in the United States. It is also a major source of toxic air pollutants like sulphur dioxides and nitrogen oxides that pose serious health issues to millions of people. Davis Bessie has a long history of accidents and violations going back to the construction site being flooded in 1972.

Other incidents include the 1977 valve being stuck open causing the plant to be closed down for a year. More recently in 2002 a 7 inch hole was found in the reactor head leaving a only a 3/16 th of an inch steel liner as protection from nuclear catastrophe. This closed the plant for 2 years and cost rate payers \$600 million dollars. The more recent danger is the state of the shield building with its cracks and the fact that no cause has yet been found. These issues make this bail out by the ratepayers even more preposterous.

I reject FirstEnergy's request to bailout their plants and I hope you will as well.

Sincerely,

Anthony Szilagye
155 Maple St
Rossford, OH 43460-1228