



ESP Settlement Support Letter

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

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

Dear PUCO:

FirstEnergy's proposed Electric Security Plan has been in the news quite often recently. To read the coverage one would think no organizations/business groups/communities support this unique rate plan.

We do, for the simple reason that it will provide long-term benefits for our Company.

We support the plan because we believe it will provide long-term protection against higher electric rates in the future. Opponents of the plan are being short-sighted because they only are concerned with near-term rate impacts.

We are not alone in our support. The PUCO staff; Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, a low-income customer advocacy group; and EnerNOC, an energy management services provider, along with 13 other signatories, support FirstEnergy's efforts.

While we're well aware that there may be some minor rate increases in the initial years, we believe FirstEnergy's approach will stabilize generation costs over the long run and shield customers from much bigger rate increases down the road that our business simply could not afford.

Unlike other electric suppliers that rely on one fuel source, FirstEnergy's plan 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.



Overall, the agreement 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 funding for Ohio communities.

It is not a surprise that many of those leading the charge against FirstEnergy are from out-of-state. Don't listen to them – do what is best over the long term for those of us who live and do business in Ohio and approve FirstEnergy's rate plan.

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.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Budion
Vice President Finance
North Star BlueScope Steel LLC

JJB:jc

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Summary: Correspondence North Star BlueScope Letter in Support of ESP Settlement electronically filed by Mr. Michael L. Kurtz on behalf of North Star BlueScope