

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO  
PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PUCO COMMISSION

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IN RE:

CASE NO. 23-301-EL-SSO  
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
OHIO EDISON COMPANY, THE CLEVELAND  
ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY AND  
THE TOLEDO EDISON COMPANY FOR  
AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD  
SERVICE OFFER PURSUANT TO R.C.  
4928.143 IN THE FORM OF AN  
ELECTRICAL SECURITY PLAN

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CLEVELAND CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

Kurt M. Spencer, Notary Public

1 APPEARANCES:

2  
3 On behalf of the Public Utilities  
4 Commission:

5 DANIEL R. CONWAY, ESQ. CMSR  
6 MEGAN J. ADDISON, ESQ, AE  
7 IZZY M. MARCELLETTI, ESQ, AE  
8

9 On behalf of The Cleveland Electric  
10 Illuminating Company:

11 BRIAN NIPE, ESQ.  
12 TREVOR ALEXANDER, ESQ.  
13

14 On behalf of FirstEnergy:  
15 Director of Rates & Regulatory Affairs,  
16 SANTINO FANELLI  
17 ANDREW SHAFFER  
18

19 On behalf of the Ohio Consumers' Council  
20 CONNOR SEMPLE, ESQ.  
21

22 On behalf of The Citizen's Coalition and  
23 Utilities for All:

24 JOSEPH MEISSNER, ESQ.  
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1 MS. MARCELLETTI: Good evening.  
2 The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio calls  
3 for a public hearing at this time and place,  
4 Case No. 23-301-EL-SSO, which is captioned In  
5 the Matter of the Application of Ohio Edison  
6 Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating  
7 Company and The Toledo Edison Company for  
8 Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer  
9 Pursuant to R.C. 4928.143 in the Form of An  
10 Electrical Security Plan.

11 My name is Izzy Marcelletti and  
12 with me is Megan Addison. We are the attorney  
13 examiners assigned by the Commission to conduct  
14 this public hearing, also, with us tonight is  
15 Commissioner Dan Conway, who is one of the five  
16 Commissioners of the Public Utilities of Ohio.

17 Commissioner Conway, would you like  
18 to make a few opening remarks?

19 MR. CONWAY: Thank you, Your Honor.  
20 I just wanted to welcome everyone to the public  
21 hearing. This is a local public hearing today  
22 in the Electric Security Plan case, known  
23 informally as ESP No. 5, I believe.

24 We very much appreciate being able  
25 to listen to the interested parties and persons

1     that are able to come to the local public  
2     hearings and we take their input and the  
3     comments that they made seriously. And we  
4     trust that you, if you testify -- well, we  
5     don't trust -- we assure you that we take your  
6     comments seriously. They help the process for  
7     us in getting an understanding of what your  
8     concerns and in what manner you support or do  
9     not support the proposed Electric Security Plan  
10    that the companies are proposing.

11                 So thank you very much for coming  
12    tonight, and I look forward to hearing your  
13    comments.

14                 MR. MEISSNER:   (Inaudible.)

15                 THE AUDIENCE:

16                 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you,  
17    Commissioner. Can you hear us, sir?

18                 MR. MEISSNER:   Yes, I can hear you.  
19    Are you going to have counsel introduce  
20    themselves that are here for anybody?

21                 MS. MARCELLETTI: Yes, sir. I have  
22    some introductory remarks and then we will have  
23    appearances of the parties.

24                 MR. MEISSNER:   Thank you very much.  
25    I have one question. Thank you.

1 MS. MARCELLETTI: We also have in  
2 the hall representatives of the Commission's  
3 Public Affairs Department and Service  
4 Monitoring and Enforcement Department. They  
5 are available if you have any questions  
6 concerning the Commission's process, if you  
7 need assistance in accessing any of the  
8 documents submitted in this case docket, or if  
9 you just have general questions about the  
10 hearing tonight.

11 And, at this time, I would like to  
12 take the appearances of the parties starting  
13 with FirstEnergy.

14 MR. KNIPE: Good evening, Your  
15 Honors, Commissioner Conway, Counsel on behalf  
16 of The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company,  
17 I'm Brian Knipe. Also appearing as counsel for  
18 the Illuminating Company from the Benesch Law  
19 Firm is Trevor Alexander. I also have with me  
20 Santino Fanelli, Director of Rates and  
21 Regulatory Affairs for Ohio, as well as, Andrew  
22 Shaffer for Ohio Regulatory Affairs.

23 In addition, we anticipate that  
24 some of those in attendance this evening are  
25 customers, who may have questions that maybe

1 don't relate to the Electric Security Plan that  
2 is before the Commission, but rather relate to  
3 their personal circumstances, their bills or  
4 their service. So outside the hearing room, we  
5 have a table. It has a blue table cloth on it,  
6 where we have employees ready to help the  
7 customers, who have these types of issues. And  
8 the employees that are here to help include  
9 members of our customer experience  
10 organization, including our Vice President of  
11 Customer Engagement, Mark Jones, as well as,  
12 our Vice President of Customer Care, Ken straw,  
13 and members of their organization.

14 And then, in addition, to help  
15 customers, we also have members of our local  
16 affairs organization, Manager of Regional  
17 Internal Affairs, Terry Killeen, and other  
18 members of that organization. Thank you.

19 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you,  
20 Counsel. Do we have any intervenors with us  
21 from OCC?

22 MR. SEMPLE: Good evening, my name  
23 is Connor Semple. I am here today on behalf of  
24 the Ohio Consumers' Council. Our offices are  
25 at 65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio. I am

1 here on behalf of Bruce Weston, Consumers'  
2 Council, and John Finnigan, who is lead counsel  
3 in this case. Thank you.

4 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you,  
5 Counsel. Are there any other parties that have  
6 been granted or for having filed intervention  
7 in this proceeding present this evening?  
8 Hearing none.

9 MR. MEISSNER: I'm just asking.

10 MS. MARCELLETTI: Sir, I have a few  
11 more remarks for you, counsel, for the  
12 intervening parties.

13 MR. MEISSNER: Yes. My clients  
14 have intervened in this case and I'm  
15 representing them.

16 MS. MARCELLETTI: Okay. Would you  
17 like to take appearances up here? I will also  
18 ask, sir, if you are all right with sitting up  
19 here in the front with other counsel? That  
20 would work.

21 MR. MEISSNER: It will only take me  
22 an hour to get up there. When you get into  
23 your '80s, it's slower. My name is Joseph  
24 Patrick Kevin Meissner. I'm an Attorney here  
25 in Ohio. I'm representing two of the main

1 consumer groups in our city; one is called The  
2 Citizen's Coalition and the other is called  
3 Utilities For All. I've been appearing in  
4 cases since 1966, and, I think, at that time,  
5 Abraham Lincoln was one of the five  
6 commissioners. But, anyway, I do have a  
7 question. Is it now appropriate to ask my  
8 question or later?

9 MS. MARCELLETTI: Counsel, this is  
10 just for appearances of the parties. So I'll  
11 have you take a seat up here, and you are able  
12 to ask questions of any witnesses testifying  
13 tonight.

14 MR. MEISSNER: Thank you, Your  
15 Honor.

16 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you. And,  
17 in addition, I'll note for the record that,  
18 while they are not required to attend this  
19 evening, there are other parties that have  
20 filed for intervention in this case.

21 Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland  
22 Electric Illuminating Company and The Toledo  
23 Edison Company, which we will refer to  
24 collectively as FirstEnergy, filed this  
25 application on April 5, 2023, requesting



1 authority to establish a standard service offer  
2 in the form of an Electric Security Plan for  
3 the period commencing June 1, 2024, and  
4 continuing through May 31, 2032.

5 The purpose of this evening's  
6 public hearing is to receive comments from the  
7 public, regarding the application that has been  
8 filed by the companies in this case. This is  
9 not a question-and-answer session, but it is an  
10 opportunity to let the Commission know what you  
11 think about the company's request. Tonight's  
12 local public hearing, as well as the other two  
13 scheduled local hearings, are only one aspect  
14 of the process. There will also be another  
15 evidentiary hearing for the parties who have  
16 been granted intervention to present their case  
17 to the Commission. This evidentiary hearing is  
18 currently scheduled to commence on November 7,  
19 2023, and will be held at the Commission's  
20 offices in Columbus.

21 Upon your arrival, you had the  
22 opportunity to sign up to testify tonight. We  
23 have those sign up sheets, and after I finish  
24 with the introduction, we will begin by  
25 inviting individuals to come up and speak in

1 the order that they signed up. Each person who  
2 signed up to testify will be permitted to speak  
3 once about the application, and to help things  
4 run smoothly, we will also call up those who  
5 are next on deck so that you can make your way  
6 forward to speak, after the person who is  
7 testifying completes their statement.

8 Before you present your testimony,  
9 we will ask you to take an oath, or an  
10 affirmation, that what you are about to say is  
11 the truth. We will also ask you to state your  
12 name for the record, then, you will be free to  
13 make your remarks. And we just ask for  
14 efficiency sake that you try to limit remarks  
15 to around five minutes, and if you have any  
16 prepared written comments, that you also  
17 provide our court reporter a copy of them.  
18 What is said and heard by the court reporter  
19 will be introduced into the record in this  
20 case.

21 Counsel for the parties to this  
22 case, attorney examiners are permitted to ask  
23 you questions about your statement. We will  
24 ask counsel as a group whether there are any  
25 questions for the witness. Any counsel who

1 wishes to pursue cross-examination must  
2 respond, or we will presume that you do not  
3 have questions for that particular witness.

4           The testimony that you provide  
5 tonight will be considered a part of the  
6 official record in this case, and it will be  
7 reviewed by the Commission, before a final  
8 decision is rendered. As counsel for  
9 FirstEnergy already pointed out, should you  
10 have specific questions about the application,  
11 the representatives are here, and, certainly,  
12 willing to speak with you, and, again, our  
13 staff is also available should you have any  
14 questions about the Commission's process.

15           A few other notes. If you decided  
16 that you do not want to testify when we read  
17 your name from the sign-in sheet, you can pass  
18 to the next witness. If you decided that you  
19 prefer to file written comments in the case  
20 docket, our staff can answer your questions  
21 about how to do so. Also, once you finish  
22 testifying, or you are here just to observe,  
23 you may leave the hearing at any time you wish.

24           Again, we are setting about a  
25 five-minute time limit so that everyone who

1 would like to testify has time to speak, and,  
2 of course, if you have additional comments that  
3 you would like to make, or run out of time, you  
4 may file those written in the case docket. And  
5 for anyone who does not wish to testify, you  
6 may also fill out the sheets I just mentioned  
7 in the back, if you are in opposition or in  
8 support of the application, and our staff will  
9 assist you with that.

10 Now, at this time, we will start  
11 the testimony.

12 MS. ADDISON: The first name I have  
13 on the list of those who have signed up to  
14 testify this evening is Don Bryant; next, on  
15 the list, I have Larry Bresler.

16 Welcome, Mr. Bryant. Please raise  
17 your right hand. Do you swear the testimony  
18 you are about to provide in this proceeding is  
19 the truth?

20 MR. BRYANT: Yes.

21 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please  
22 state your name for the record.

23 MR. BRYANT: My name is Don Bryant  
24 and I reside in North Royalton, Ohio. I am a  
25 participant of the greater Cleveland

1 organization, Utilities for All, which  
2 advocates for low income utility customers in  
3 our region. Utility consumption rates have  
4 climbed considerably in Ohio, along with the  
5 cost of almost everything else; inflation and  
6 rate increases hit low income people the  
7 hardest. I am pleased that funds have been  
8 made available for consumers who have fallen  
9 behind on their utility bills through the Fuel  
10 Fund Program administered by two agencies in  
11 Cleveland, greater Cleveland.

12 I am concerned now that the fuel  
13 funding may be ending under the new security,  
14 Electric Security Plan, or ESP. This could be  
15 an economic undoing for individuals with  
16 families that live paycheck to paycheck. I  
17 come in and PUCO and FirstEnergy continued  
18 administration of the Customer Advisory Program  
19 to help all customers, to assist them in  
20 finding ways to reduce their electric usage,  
21 and helping all of them reduce their electrical  
22 rates. This is offered to small businesses,  
23 too.

24 I ask that you continue funding  
25 these programs and increase the allocation, as

1 more people are struggling, while FirstEnergy  
2 profits are up, as campaign contributions have  
3 been very generously distributed by  
4 FirstEnergy. In 2015 and 2018 election cycles  
5 for FirstEnergy's political action committee  
6 and employees contributed over \$1.2 million to  
7 legislative and statewide candidates, including  
8 contributions to Supreme Court candidates of  
9 Ohio.

10 During the 2018 election cycle, the  
11 FirstEnergy PAC, (PAC), had hit the primary and  
12 general election campaign contribution limits  
13 by contributing \$25,415 to Larry Householder's  
14 campaign committee, Friends of Householder.  
15 During the last two election cycles, 2015 and  
16 2018, FirstEnergy's PAC and employees  
17 contributed \$281,717 to republican party  
18 committees and \$45,500 to democratic party  
19 committees. During the 2018 election, Larry  
20 Householder had his eye on being the Speaker.

21 The non-profit news agency, Inside  
22 Climate News, noted that a dozen republican  
23 candidates received contributions of the same  
24 size from Friends of Householder, \$7,707,  
25 during the 2018 primaries. Seven of these

1 candidates also received payments from  
2 FirstEnergy's PAC between \$5,000 and \$13,000.

3 This last part of my testimony is  
4 from the article in commoncause.org/ohio.  
5 Thank you.

6 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Any  
7 questions for this witness? No. Mr. Bryant,  
8 if you could provide the court reporter a copy  
9 of your written statement that would be very  
10 helpful. Thank you very much.

11 MR. MEISSNER: I have one question,  
12 Ms. Addison.

13 MS. ADDISON: Oh, please proceed,  
14 Mr. Meissner.

15 MR. MEISSNER: Mr. Bryant, you  
16 mentioned the program, Fuel Fund is a short way  
17 of referring to it. What does that do? How  
18 does that help low income customers?

19 MR. BRYANT: Oh, thank you for the  
20 question. For people that are behind on their  
21 utility bills, they can receive a \$500 payment  
22 towards that utility bill.

23 MR. MEISSNER: That's a credit --  
24 it's not cash.

25 MR. BRYANT: That's a credit, yes.

1 The way we handle the cash is it goes right  
2 towards the bill.

3 MR. MEISSNER: Thank you very much.

4 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Next,  
5 I'll have Larry Bresler. Welcome. Please  
6 raise your right hand. Do you swear the  
7 testimony you are about to provide in this  
8 proceeding is the truth?

9 MR. BRESLER: I do.

10 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please  
11 state your name for the record.

12 MR. BRESLER: My name is Larry  
13 Bresler. I live in Shaker Heights, Ohio. I am  
14 the Director of an organization called Organize  
15 Ohio. I am also a member of the Northeast  
16 Ohio's Public Utilities for All Coalition and  
17 the coordinating committee of the Ohio Poor  
18 Peoples' Campaign.

19 Beginning in June this year,  
20 FirstEnergy customers had seen their rates  
21 double through their, the SSO costs. Now,  
22 FirstEnergy is asking for an additional  
23 \$1.4 billion through the Electric Security  
24 Plan. I've seen some explanation for this,  
25 but, just, it's still not clear to me why that



1 much is needed.

2 I am particularly concerned, as  
3 we've had these increases, about the impact  
4 would be on lower income utility consumers.  
5 Following the worst of the COVID pandemic,  
6 there were many where many consumers who fell  
7 substantially behind. As the June increase  
8 happened, the number of FirstEnergy customers,  
9 who have had their utilities shut off or are  
10 facing shutoffs is certainly increasing  
11 substantially. This can have dire medical  
12 consequences for frail utility users during the  
13 summer months, which will only increase as the  
14 summers now become hotter.

15 In many cases, these shutoffs  
16 continue, even in the winter months, even after  
17 the onset of winter moratorium, because  
18 customers do not have the money to be able to  
19 pay what is necessary to have their utilities  
20 turned back on. Not only does this have direct  
21 medical consequences, but it has ancillary  
22 consequences, such as children being removed  
23 from their parents and placed in foster care,  
24 due to the fact that they have lack of power.  
25 This will no doubt increase dramatically as

1 time goes on, if the new \$1.4 billion hike is  
2 approved.

3 A small safety net for some has  
4 been utility assistance programs that have  
5 received and rely upon funds from FirstEnergy.  
6 Here in Cleveland, those funds have gone to the  
7 Cleveland Housing Partners and Step Forward,  
8 Step Forward Cleveland, and other organizations  
9 have received these funds in other parts of the  
10 FirstEnergy service area. The energy  
11 assistance programs have been a vital,  
12 although, limited program to assist low income  
13 utility customers to keep their utilities on.

14 The contracts for those funds will  
15 be ending in 2024. It is critical that any  
16 increase given to FirstEnergy for its rate hike  
17 includes, not only a continuation of funding  
18 for these programs by FirstEnergy, but, at  
19 least, the doubling of the amount of funding  
20 given all the problems that exist. This will  
21 make a small dent in the necessary efforts to  
22 keep power turned on for FirstEnergy consumers.  
23 Thank you.

24 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Any  
25 questions from counsel -- Mr. Meissner.

1                   MR. MEISSNER: Thank you. I have  
2 one question. Mr. Bresler, you used the term  
3 in your testimony, "moratorium," what did you  
4 mean by that and how does that have any affect  
5 upon this case?

6                   MS. ADDISON: Mr. Meissner, is  
7 Mr. Bresler representing an organization that  
8 has intervened in this proceeding that you are  
9 representing?

10                  MR. MEISSNER: He's part of an  
11 organization. I don't know if he represents  
12 them.

13                  MS. ADDISON: But you are  
14 representing --

15                  MR. MEISSNER: The organization.

16                  MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please  
17 proceed, Mr. Bresler.

18                  MR. BRESLER: As -- we have a  
19 yearly winter moratorium that begins in, I  
20 don't know, October and ends in May -- I may  
21 have that wrong, which is greatly vitally  
22 needed, but, of course, the utilities have  
23 already been turned off, then, you have to pay  
24 what is necessary to get them turned on, and,  
25 if you have the money to do that, then, the

1 moratorium isn't any good for you.

2 MS. ADDISON: Thank you very much.

3 MR. MEISSNER: Thank you.

4 MS. ADDISON: The next name I have  
5 on our list this evening is Lou, and, then, the  
6 next person up would be David Guran. Welcome.  
7 Please raise your right hand. Do you swear the  
8 testimony you are about to provide is the  
9 truth?

10 LOU: Yes, I do.

11 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please  
12 state your name and then you can make your  
13 statement.

14 LOU: Hi, good evening. I am Lou.  
15 I am a homeless person staying in a homeless  
16 shelter. Our economy has been down, since the  
17 recession. Homeless people, our number has  
18 been increasing in our area. One particular  
19 issue people do not understand is, without the  
20 electricity, you actually tell them and they  
21 give you a hotel voucher issued by HUD; that  
22 means, through your local housing authority.

23 Unfortunately, in the shelter, we  
24 have so many people, they became homeless --  
25 yeah, utilities are the reason -- not only the

1 landlord not responsible for all the repairing;  
2 old wiring, false wiring, will cause them to  
3 have huge electricity bills they cannot afford,  
4 so, eventually, they become delinquent, then,  
5 you get it shut off.

6           However, throughout this hard time,  
7 we have also lost a lot of population. The  
8 people remaining in the areas are the people  
9 who don't have extra means to move out of here,  
10 so, now, these people are facing daily  
11 struggles, including the electricity bills.

12           All these companies do not give us  
13 the clear bills for us to truly understand what  
14 we are paying for; just because we are poor, we  
15 don't deserve to have the same quality of the  
16 service? I think that's really wrong. It's  
17 discrimination, of course, however, even there  
18 are programs; PUCO cannot really watch all of  
19 these companies and how they carry out all  
20 their services. So we have lots of people, not  
21 only became delinquent; they deny them  
22 notifications. They did not give them warning.  
23 They did not even get help from the customer  
24 service, as what the plan -- they always submit  
25 to the PUCO and their power gets shut off -- it

1 could be happening in the severe cold  
2 wintertime or an extremely hot day in the  
3 summertime.

4 Without electricity, the low income  
5 population are with all kinds of health issues  
6 they cannot survive. Their voucher from HUD,  
7 from Public Housing Authority, means nothing.  
8 They have to become homeless, okay -- why --  
9 because when you have power shut off, there's  
10 no way for these people to get easy answers in  
11 order to get assistance and to get the power  
12 turned back on. Back in 2021, August, we had  
13 to pick the warmer weather to have a vigil for  
14 the people who died back in January and  
15 February that same year without electricity.

16 We do know lots of people right now  
17 in the community and I think that's what we  
18 need in Cuyahoga County or City of Cleveland,  
19 who depend on electricity to power their oxygen  
20 machine and C-Pak machine; without electricity,  
21 it's being shut off, not through their own  
22 fault -- it could be a letter or it could be  
23 some bureaucracy through the government -- they  
24 lose electricity and they can lose their life  
25 at the same time.

1           So please understand having a  
2     reasonable rate, having renewable energy to  
3     make sure our environment is sustainable is  
4     very important to everybody, especially, the  
5     people without big incomes. These people are  
6     actually the workforce, but, now, we are either  
7     stuck in a shelter to go through the  
8     bureaucracy of the shelter system, or people be  
9     on the street getting in trouble with the law,  
10    and, now, they are in jail -- that's  
11    incarceration.

12           So having good electricity rules,  
13    having a good organization supervise all these  
14    companies to make sure the safety plans are  
15    actually working is important, because it's  
16    about peoples' lives. With people, we are  
17    struggling with our daily life. We cannot  
18    really watch how things like what Mr. Larry  
19    Householder are doing; we depend on you.

20           Please help all of us to make sure  
21    that electricity rates cannot be raised, just  
22    because they tell you, oh, they lose benefit,  
23    because this is a different kind of murder,  
24    which is unjust and unlawful, and, I believe,  
25    to a certain degree, unconstitutional.

1           Thank you very much. If you have  
2 any questions, I'm here to answer.

3           MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Any  
4 questions from counsel? No questions. Thank  
5 you very much for your statement this evening.

6           LOU: Thank you for listening.

7           MS. ADDISON: As I noted before,  
8 the next name I have is David Guran. Welcome.  
9 Please raise your right hand. Do you swear the  
10 testimony you are about to provide in this  
11 proceeding is the truth?

12           MR. GURAN: Yes.

13           MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please  
14 state your name for the record.

15           MR. GURAN: My name is David Guran.  
16 I reside in Akron, Ohio. I didn't realize  
17 until tonight that you're all still in Akron,  
18 but here I am. I am also part of Utilities For  
19 All -- a part-time member -- let's put it that  
20 way. Also, I'm the advocate try chair for the  
21 Poor People's Campaign of Ohio, and i am here  
22 tonight as one who lives in Akron, headquarters  
23 of FirstEnergy.

24                   With the Larry Householder scandal,  
25 which included a bribe that was initiated by



1 FirstEnergy; the CEO, Chuck Jones and the Vice  
2 President Mike Dowling, this is not the first  
3 time that FirstEnergy has done this type of  
4 scandal. I believe it was back in the 1990s  
5 that a similar scandal happened at FirstEnergy.  
6 Are we going to allow this a third time? We  
7 need the Public Utilities Commission to work  
8 for the customers.

9 Now, I know you also have a mandate  
10 to give the shareholders a decent return, but,  
11 nowadays, with banks, like, Chase Bank, giving  
12 interest savings accounts less than 1%; the  
13 same type of return should go to the investors.  
14 This is, investing into a utility is guaranteed  
15 money to an investor, but it shouldn't be a  
16 gravy train.

17 And then this group -- it used to  
18 be run by the former disgraced PCO Chairman,  
19 Sam Randazzo. This Commission now needs to  
20 show the community that you learned from his  
21 mistakes, from his wrongdoing -- we need to see  
22 that.

23 I have said, before the city  
24 council of Akron, that FirstEnergy is a  
25 criminal organization (on the vernacular) they

1 haven't actually been convicted yet. But they  
2 did actually something very similar to a  
3 company that I used to work for. I used to  
4 work for Commonwealth Edison in Illinois, which  
5 is now called Exelon. I worked at a power  
6 plant called Zion nuclear generator plant,  
7 which is now closed, as a chemist.

8 The exact same kind of scandal  
9 happened in Illinois as Ohio, and, right now,  
10 they've been fighting it out with the former  
11 speaker of the state legislature and the  
12 various -- the CEO of Exelon. This needs to  
13 stop. And, as a former employee, I know  
14 there's graps within utilities.

15 You need to do your job. You need  
16 to stop this. Thank you.

17 MS. ADDISON: Thank you, Mr. Guran.  
18 Mr. Guran, if you could just wait to see if  
19 counsel has any questions.

20 MR. GURAN: Sure.

21 MS. ADDISON: Any questions from  
22 counsel for this witness? Thank you very much  
23 for your statement. That does conclude the  
24 number of individuals that have signed up to  
25 testify. I would like to open the floor up for

1 anyone who may not have had a chance to sign up  
2 prior to sitting down this evening, who has not  
3 already testified. Okay.

4 And with that, we will take a brief  
5 break to allow individuals a chance to come  
6 into the council chambers, in the event they  
7 are running a little bit late this evening. So  
8 we will take a quick fifteen minute break, just  
9 to allow folks another chance to get here on  
10 time and then we have some concluding remarks.  
11 Thank you very much. Let's go off the record.

12 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

13 MS. MARCELLETTI: Back on the  
14 record. That concludes the witnesses who  
15 signed up to testify. Is there anyone else  
16 present this evening, who would like to testify  
17 and did not sign up? Seeing none. Thank you  
18 to everyone for their participation.

19 MR. MEISSNER: I just have a point  
20 of order.

21 MS. MARCELLETTI: Yes, counsel?

22 MR. MEISSNER: Before, when I was  
23 at the brief cases, the testimony from the  
24 Company and its witnesses and all the company  
25 seemed to come first, and, then, the public

1 learning everything would come down to whatever  
2 public hearings there were, which came after --  
3 now, it seems to be reversed --

4 MS. ADDISON: Mr. Meissner --

5 MR. MEISSNER: And the question I  
6 keep getting asked tonight is --

7 MS. ADDISON: I'm sorry --

8 MR. MEISSNER: Why aren't there  
9 more people here?

10 MS. ADDISON: Mr. Meissner, we,  
11 obviously, can't control how many people came  
12 to tonight's hearing, but we did hear from  
13 those that are present tonight. Please  
14 conclude your thoughts.

15 MR. MEISSNER: Thank you.

16 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you again  
17 to everyone who testified this evening.  
18 Commissioner Conway, do you have any further  
19 remarks?

20 MR. CONWAY: Well, first of all,  
21 thank you again for everyone who took the time  
22 out of their schedules to come down and discuss  
23 with them your concerns, whether they are in  
24 support or in opposition to the application  
25 that's been filed.

1 I would note, Mr. Meissner, that  
2 the record is still open, and if others do have  
3 concerns, or do have comments that they would  
4 like to make, they can record them and put them  
5 down in writing and submit them to the  
6 Commission. That is one thing that can be done  
7 to address the comments and concerns you have  
8 raised.

9 MR. MEISSNER: Thank you.

10 MR. CONWAY: Again, I really  
11 appreciate everyone who came out tonight, took  
12 the time, invested the effort in preparing  
13 themselves, particularly, the witnesses;  
14 Mr. Bryant, Mr. Bresler, Mr. Guran and Lou.

15 I think we understand. I know that  
16 it's not easy to stand up and talk publicly,  
17 particularly, for those who don't do it  
18 frequently. We appreciate the time that  
19 everyone has been preparing themselves and  
20 attending and presenting your comments tonight.  
21 So thank you very much.

22 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you, again,  
23 Commissioner. We would also like to thank  
24 Cleveland City Hall for allowing us to use  
25 their facilities to conduct this public

1 hearing in person with you all this evening.  
2 And, again, thank you so much to everyone who  
3 has participated.

4 The hearing is now concluded and  
5 the hearing transcript will be submitted on the  
6 record for the Board's consideration in this  
7 case. You will be able to access it on the  
8 case docket when it is posted.

9 Thank you, again. You have a nice  
10 evening. We are adjourned.

11 (PUCO hearing concluded at 7:01 p.m.)  
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Kurt M. Spencer, do hereby  
certify that as such Reporter I took down in  
Stenotypy all of the proceedings had in the  
foregoing transcript; that I have transcribed  
my said Stenotype notes into typewritten form  
as appears in the foregoing transcript; that  
said transcript is the complete form of the  
proceedings had in said cause and constitutes a  
true and correct transcript therein.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kurt Spencer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kurt M. Spencer, Notary Public  
within and for the State of Ohio

My commission expires December 2, 2025.

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