



ClarkDietrich.

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December 4, 2023
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215

COMMENTS REGARDING FIRSTENERGY'S ESP V APPLICATION, CASE NO. 23-301-EL-SSO

I, Nathan Jacobs submit this letter to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, on behalf of ClarkDietrich, the largest manufacturer of steel framing and accessories in the United States. Although our corporate headquarters are located in West Chester, Ohio, we have multiple manufacturing facilities located in the Ohio Edison service territory, specifically in Warren and Vienna, Ohio.

Since 2001 ClarkDietrich has been enrolled in FirstEnergy's Interruptible Rider followed by the Economic Load Response Rider (Rider ELR) program. Based on FirstEnergy's Fifth Electric Security Plan (ESP V) application, FirstEnergy's proposal to phase down the Rider ELR program credits would result in a significant cost increase for ClarkDietrich over the term of the ESP.

As Director of Operations for ClarkDietrich, I know first-hand that reducing our load to our firm service level during local and regional grid emergencies is not inconsequential. This disruption to our operations for annual tests and actual demand response events comes at a cost to our production. However, because of the credits we are eligible for through our participation in the ELR program, we have been committed for 20+ years to disrupt our operations and shed our load so that other customers in FirstEnergy's territory, such as residential customers, will not have to. Furthermore, increased cost of our electricity supply will impact the cost of our goods, a vital building component, for development and construction in Ohio. As a manufacturer with a nationwide footprint cost impacts such as these greatly influence our decisions on future expansion and product launch in the State of Ohio.

I respectfully ask the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to consider the reliability benefits Rider ELR customers provide to the electric grid as well as the substantial bill impacts that would result from a reduction in ELR program credits when making a decision in this case.

Regards,

Nathan S. Jacobs

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