

**MICHAEL J. DOWLING PROMOTED TO  
VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR FIRSTENERGY,  
SUCCEEDING RALPH J. DINICOLA, WHO WILL RETIRE AFTER 30 YEARS**

Akron, OH – Michael J. Dowling, currently vice president, Governmental Affairs, has been promoted to vice president, Communications, for Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE), effective August 31, 2008. He will succeed FirstEnergy Vice President, Communications, Ralph J. DiNicola, who has elected to retire, effective April 1, 2009, after 30 years of service to the company.

Mr. Dowling began his career at Ohio Edison in 1986 as a member of the Communications Department. In 1990, he joined the Governmental Affairs Department and was named manager of Federal Governmental Affairs in 1997. He was named vice president of Federal Governmental Affairs in 2001, following the merger of FirstEnergy Corp. and the former GPU, Inc. In 2004, Mr. Dowling was promoted to vice president of Supply Chain. He was named vice president of Governmental Affairs in December 2005, overseeing activities at the state and federal levels.

“Mike brings a wealth of experience that will serve him well in his new position,” said Anthony J. Alexander, FirstEnergy’s president and chief executive officer. “In his more than 20 years with the company, Mike has been a key member of our team, heading up a variety of company initiatives and representing FirstEnergy at both the federal and state government levels.”

Mr. Dowling is a graduate of The University of Akron with a bachelor of arts degree in communications. He chairs The University of Akron/FirstEnergy Alumni Club and serves on the school’s National Alumni Board of Directors. He also chairs the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank and is a board member of the Jackson Township YMCA. Mr. Dowling has held several leadership positions with the Edison Electric Institute, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Mr. DiNicola joined Ohio Edison in 1978 as advertising coordinator. He was promoted to director of Public Information in 1981. Mr. DiNicola served in a number of public and news media relations positions before being named vice president of Communications in 2004.

“For more than three decades, Ralph has been the voice of our company, presenting our position on rate cases, mergers and the construction of some of our largest power plants and environmental projects,” said Mr. Alexander. “And, through it all, Ralph has been a true professional. I will miss his wise counsel, sense of humor and dedication to FirstEnergy.”

Mr. DiNicola earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from The University of Notre Dame in 1971 when he joined Roadway Express. He worked in a number of operations and sales positions before being named a terminal manager in 1976. His professional and community activities have included serving as chairman of the Ohio Electric Utility Institute’s Communications Committee and on the boards of the Green Family YMCA, Catholic Charities of the Cleveland Diocese, and Archbishop Hoban High School. Mr. DiNicola also provided communications support to the Akron Area YMCA, United Way, Akron Marathon and Justin T. Rogers Hospice Care Center.

FirstEnergy is a diversified energy company headquartered in Akron, Ohio. Its subsidiaries and affiliates are involved in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, as well as energy management and other energy-related services. Its seven electric utility operating companies comprise the nation’s fifth largest investor-owned electric system, based on 4.5 million customers served within a 36,100-square-mile area of Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and its generation subsidiaries control more than 14,000 megawatts of capacity.

**News Media Contact:**

Ellen Raines  
(330) 384-5808

(082708)