



**EDISON ELECTRIC
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News

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EEL HONORS FIRSTENERGY WITH EMERGENCY RECOVERY, ASSISTANCE AWARDS FOR STELLAR 2008 EFFORTS

WASHINGTON (March 11, 2009) – The Edison Electric Institute today honored FirstEnergy Corp. as a winner of the association's "Emergency Recovery Award" for outstanding efforts in restoring electric power in the wake of Hurricane Ike, and as a winner of the "Emergency Assistance Award" for its outstanding efforts to assist other utilities in major restoration work outside of the company's service territory in 2008.

The remnants of Ike, which made landfall in Texas before moving through the Midwest, caused Ohio's biggest storm-related outage ever, affecting more than one million FirstEnergy customers. The company's service territory experienced wind gusts of up to 70 miles per hour for approximately six successive hours, resulting in extensive and widespread damage to the company's electric infrastructure.

FirstEnergy's comprehensive Emergency Restoration Plan ("E-Plan") was successfully initiated, helping to mobilize resources at its Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison, Metropolitan Edison, Pennsylvania Electric, Pennsylvania Power, and Jersey Central Power & Light utility operating companies. The overall effort included a restoration crew of more than 4,000 workers with resulting restoration of electric service to 86 percent of those affected after two days and 100 percent of affected customers after six days.

Also this past year, FirstEnergy provided mutual assistance to fellow utility company Entergy after Hurricane Gustav devastated Louisiana. The combined effort saw 304 FirstEnergy employees and their 127 company vehicles spend eight days and a total of more than 53,000 worker hours helping to get the lights back on in Gustav-affected areas.

"Winning the Emergency Assistance Award is quite an honor, but I am especially pleased to receive the Emergency Recovery Award because it recognizes the dedication and long hours our employees put in doing restoration work on behalf of our own customers," said Anthony J. Alexander, president and chief executive officer of FirstEnergy.



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“FirstEnergy’s service territory experienced its worst storm on record, yet employees were unwavering in their determination to get the power back as soon as possible,” said EEI President Thomas R. Kuhn. “The company also demonstrated, in helping Entergy with the Gustav recovery efforts, our industry’s strong tradition to lend a hand when help is needed.”

The “Emergency Recovery Award” and “Emergency Assistance Award” are presented annually to U.S. and foreign-based member companies to recognize outstanding efforts in restoring electric service that has been disrupted by severe weather conditions or natural events. The Recovery Award recognizes exceptional efforts in restoring electric service by a company in its service territory; the Assistance Award recognizes companies that have excelled in helping utilities in other service territories restore power after similar storms and other natural events. Winners of both awards were chosen by a panel of judges following an international nomination process, and awards were presented today during EEI’s Spring CEO meetings.

FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE) is a diversified electric company headquartered in Akron, Ohio. Its seven electric utility operating companies comprise the nation's fifth largest investor-owned electric system, serving 4.5 million customers.

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Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association of United States investor-owned electric utilities and industry affiliates and associates worldwide. Its domestic members generate approximately three-quarters of all the electricity generated by electric utilities in the country and serve about 70 percent of all ultimate customers in the nation.