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**For Immediate Release**

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## **ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE SELECTS JCP&L FOR SMART GRID DEMONSTRATION**

**Morristown, NJ** -- Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) has been selected as a smart grid demonstration host site by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), an independent, nonprofit organization focused on research and development related to the electric power industry. The technologies demonstrated during this project may be key to meeting future electricity demand and accomplishing the goals of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan.

The project includes JCP&L's eight-megawatt Integrated Distributed Energy Resources (IDER) management pilot as well as technologies to enhance peak load shifting, substation electricity storage and grid monitoring and control.

"EPRI's selection of the IDER project highlights JCP&L's commitment to developing industry-leading standards and technologies to manage demand and operate a more efficient electric delivery system," said Steve Morgan, president, JCP&L. "Evaluating and adopting smart grid technologies employed in the project is an important component in meeting New Jersey's future energy needs."

EPRI chose the JCP&L project as one of three regional demonstrations to test the integration of smart grid and other technologies into operations of existing systems. JCP&L's efforts will help EPRI develop standards and protocols for industry-wide grid enhancements.

“Our industry recognizes the need for a smart grid infrastructure to deliver power more efficiently and effectively in the future,” said Arshad Mansoor, vice president of Power Delivery and Utilization at EPRI. “This smart grid demonstration project is one of many that will be required to test and evaluate integrated technologies as well as develop standards to achieve this vision. It will help enable distributed energy resources to become an integral part of a modernized grid.”

JCP&L, a subsidiary of Akron, Ohio based FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE:FE), serves 1.1 million customers in 13 New Jersey counties.

**Forward-Looking Statements:** This news release includes forward-looking statements based on information currently available to management. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties. These statements include declarations regarding management's intents, beliefs and current expectations. These statements typically contain, but are not limited to, the terms "anticipate," "potential," "expect," "believe," "estimate" and similar words. Forward-looking statements involve estimates, assumptions, known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially due to the speed and nature of increased competition in the electric utility industry and legislative and regulatory changes affecting how generation rates will be determined following the expiration of existing rate plans in Ohio and Pennsylvania, the impact of the PUCO's regulatory process on the Ohio Companies associated with the ESP and MRO filings, including any resultant mechanism under which the Ohio Companies may not fully recover costs (including, but not limited to, the costs of generation supply procured by the Ohio Companies, Regulatory Transition Charges and fuel charges), or the outcome of any competitive generation procurement process in Ohio, economic or weather conditions affecting future sales and margins, changes in markets for energy services, changing energy and commodity market prices and availability, replacement power costs being higher than anticipated or inadequately hedged, the continued ability of FirstEnergy's regulated utilities to collect transition and other charges or to recover increased transmission costs, maintenance costs being higher than anticipated, other legislative and regulatory changes, revised environmental requirements, including possible greenhouse gas emission regulations, the potential impacts of the U.S. Court of Appeals' July 11, 2008 decision requiring revisions to the CAIR rules and the scope of any laws, rules or regulations that may ultimately take their place, the uncertainty of the timing and amounts of the capital expenditures needed to, among other things, implement the AQC Plan (including that such amounts could be higher than anticipated or that certain generating units may need to be shut down) or levels of emission reductions related to the Consent Decree resolving the NSR litigation or other potential regulatory initiatives, adverse regulatory or legal decisions and outcomes (including, but not limited to, the revocation of necessary licenses or operating permits and oversight) by the NRC (including, but not limited to, the Demand for Information issued to FENOC on May 14, 2007), the timing and outcome of various proceedings before the PUCO (including, but not limited to the distribution rate cases and the generation supply plan filing for the Ohio Companies and the successful resolution of the issues remanded to the PUCO by the Ohio Supreme Court regarding the RSP and the RCP, including the recovery of deferred fuel costs), Met-Ed's and Penelec's transmission service charge filings with the PPUC, the continuing availability of generating units and their ability to operate at or near full capacity, the ability to comply with applicable state and federal reliability standards, the ability to accomplish or realize anticipated benefits from strategic goals (including employee workforce initiatives), the ability to improve electric commodity margins and to experience growth in the distribution business, the changing market conditions that could affect the value of assets held in FirstEnergy's nuclear decommissioning trusts, pension trusts and other trust funds, and cause it to make additional contributions sooner, or in an amount that is larger than currently anticipated, the ability to access the public securities and other capital and credit markets in accordance with FirstEnergy's financing plan and the cost of such capital, changes in general economic conditions affecting the company, the state of the capital and credit markets affecting the company, interest rates and any actions taken by credit rating agencies that could negatively affect FirstEnergy's access to financing or its costs and increased requirements to post additional collateral to support outstanding commodity positions, letters of credit and other financial guarantees, the continuing decline of the national and regional economy and its impact on FirstEnergy's major industrial and commercial customers, issues concerning the soundness of financial institutions and counterparties with which FirstEnergy does business, and the risks and other factors discussed from time to time in its SEC filings, and

other similar factors. The foregoing review of factors should not be construed as exhaustive. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all such factors, nor assess the impact of any such factor on its business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. FirstEnergy expressly disclaims any current intention to update any forward-looking statements contained herein as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

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