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For Immediate Release

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FIRSTENERGY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL LEILA L. VESPOLI ADDRESSES PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON RATE PHASE-IN BILL

Reading, PA – FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE) Executive Vice President and General Counsel Leila L. Vespoli today testified before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Consumer Affairs Committee on House Bill 20, a proposal to phase in potential electric rate increases when current rate caps end. Vespoli offered comments on behalf of FirstEnergy's Pennsylvania utility companies – Metropolitan Edison (Met-Ed), Pennsylvania Electric (Penelec) and Pennsylvania Power.

"I commend the Legislature – as well as the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission – for the initiatives you've already put into place to create an environment that should provide for the future stability of electric prices in the Commonwealth," Vespoli said. "A carefully crafted phase-in of the initial generation rate increase following the expiration of rate caps is another tool that regulators and utilities could use to help mitigate the impact on customers' bills."

In her testimony, Vespoli stressed several key areas that would be important for successful implementation of House Bill 20.

First, she said utilities would need to recover carrying costs associated with any phase-in of electric rates. Under the proposed bill, utilities will continue to pay electric generation suppliers the full cost of obtaining electricity at the time the energy is procured. However, the plan would allow the utilities' customers to pay less than the full cost during the initial part of the phase-in period, with the utilities paying the difference up front.

Vespoli said that requiring the utilities to borrow additional money to fund the deferrals, and then denying recovery of the interest utilities must pay on that money, known as carrying charges, would have a significant impact on the Companies' financial health, and is contrary to federal law.

"These actions could lead to lower credit ratings, higher cost of capital and ultimately fewer resources to spend on infrastructure improvements that would help maintain future service reliability," Vespoli said. In addition, "denying recovery of costs associated with purchased power would be illegal and would violate the Takings, Due Process and Supremacy clauses of the U.S. Constitution," she said.

Vespoli also called for a clarification within House Bill 20, to make clear that the recovery of all deferred amounts is guaranteed, and must occur no later than the three years immediately following the phase-in. Failure to guarantee the recovery of the utilities' costs could force the Companies to operate at a net loss over the phase-in period, and lead to deterioration of the Companies' equity and credit quality, she said.

Finally, Vespoli requested that House Bill 20 not limit the amount utilities can recover for generation prices.

"Although wholesale market prices have recently dropped, we don't know where prices will be when rate caps are lifted at the end of 2010," said Vespoli. "We do know, however, that our customers have benefited from artificially low rates since 1997. In fact, rates offered by Met-Ed and Penelec are among the lowest in Pennsylvania."

A complete text of Ms. Vespoli's remarks is available on FirstEnergy's Web site, *www.firstenergycorp.com.*

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.

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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