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**FIRSTENERGY RECEIVES ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION  
TREE CARE AWARD FOR ELEVENTH YEAR**

Akron, OH – For the eleventh time, FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE), on behalf of its seven utility operating companies, has been named a Tree Line USA utility by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters.

The award recognizes utility companies – electric, gas and water – that promote the dual goals of dependable utility service and abundant, healthy trees along America’s streets and highways. Award-winning companies demonstrate excellence in tree care, training their workers in proper vegetation management practices and educating the public on plantings appropriate for areas near utility lines. These practices not only help to provide healthy trees into the future, but also result in long-term savings for utility companies.

“Tree contacts are one of the biggest causes of power outages,” said John Paganie, vice president of Energy Efficiency and Customer Service. “We work very hard to strike an appropriate balance between ensuring safe and reliable electric service and maintaining natural beauty in the communities we serve. This award demonstrates that our efforts are succeeding.”

In addition to enhancing service reliability and natural beauty, FirstEnergy’s vegetation management programs also are designed to help ensure public safety and the safety of utility line crews, especially during storms and other hazardous conditions.

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 serving 4.5 million customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and its generation subsidiaries control more than 14,000 megawatts of capacity.

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