

FIRSTENERGY'S OHIO UTILITIES FILE MOTION TO STAY, REQUEST FOR REHEARING AND APPLICATION FOR FUEL RECOVERY

Akron, Ohio – Citing inconsistencies with state law and potentially serious financial consequences that could result from a recent Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) ruling, FirstEnergy Corp.'s (NYSE: FE) Ohio utility companies today filed a Motion to Stay, as well as an Application for Rehearing and an Application for a Fuel Rider, and requested an expedited ruling from the PUCO. The PUCO ruling involved the recent tariff filing for FirstEnergy's Ohio utility companies, which included tariffs that would have continued current rate plans in accordance with Amended Substitute Senate Bill 221 (Am. Sub. SB 221), Ohio's new electricity restructuring law.

If accepted, the Motion to Stay would permit the Ohio utility companies – Ohio Edison, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and Toledo Edison – to continue charging current rates until the PUCO rules on pending filings. Revenue collected above what was outlined in the PUCO order would be used to reduce future customer costs, and not to create additional financial benefit to the companies. The companies have not had a base distribution rate increase since the early- to mid-1990s.

The companies believe that the PUCO's ruling in the tariff case was inconsistent with Am. Sub. SB 221 because it failed to recognize that, absent a new rate plan, current tariffs should remain in effect. Instead the PUCO selected certain rate components to remain in effect while disallowing others.

Because the Ohio utility companies are incurring wholesale generation costs at an average price that is above the generation price reflected in customer bills, the ruling further widens the gap between the companies' expenses and the revenues they are authorized to collect.

In the Fuel Rider filing, the Ohio companies requested an adjustment to recover the difference between fuel costs – including purchased power, energy, capacity, alternative energy and credits, uncollectible expense, applicable taxes and other expenses

to provide generation service – and the generation charges paid by their customers. The rider would be reconciled and updated quarterly so that customers who do not choose alternative suppliers would pay only the actual cost of generation supply incurred by the companies.

The Fuel Rider is necessary to ensure that the companies recover costs related to their provider-of-last-resort obligation to customers that the companies believe is mandated under state and federal law. Without the Fuel Rider, providing generation service to customers at rates that are well below actual costs would cause the companies to incur a cash shortfall of approximately \$2 million per day. This would require the companies to make immediate and severe reductions in operating and capital expenses. The companies requested that the Fuel Rider remain in place until the PUCO authorizes either an Electric Security Plan (ESP) or a Market Rate Offer (MRO), as required in Am. Sub. SB 221.

The PUCO denied the companies' MRO filing and significantly altered their ESP. The companies withdrew their ESP application, as allowed for under Am. Sub. SB 221. The companies, which do not own any electric generation, serve 2.1 million customers in Ohio.

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 Electric Security Plan and Market Rate Offer filings, including any resultant mechanism under which rates charged to retail customers may not fully recover the costs of energy supply (including, but not limited to, Regulatory Transition Charges and fuel charges), or the outcome of any competitive procurement process in Ohio to allow the Ohio Companies to provide energy supply for their customers, 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 Air Quality Compliance 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 New Source Review 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 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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 Rate Stabilization Plan and the Rate Certainty Plan, 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 FirstEnergy 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 FirstEnergy, the state of the capital and credit markets affecting FirstEnergy, 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 our 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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