

## **FIRSTENERGY COMPANIES FILE APPLICATION FOR GEAUGA COUNTY TRANSMISSION LINE**

Akron, Ohio – FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE) announced that its American Transmission Systems Inc., (ATSI) transmission subsidiary, and its Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI) electric utility company have filed a complete construction application with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). The project – to construct a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation in northeast Ohio – is designed to serve parts of Geauga and Ashtabula counties. In Ohio, the OPSB is responsible for approving the location of major utility facilities.

As part of the process, a copy of the complete application also was provided to public officials in Geauga and Lake counties, and copies were placed in local libraries in Burton, Chardon, Madison, Middlefield, Morley and Thompson for local residents to review.

“Gauga County and parts of Ashtabula County have experienced significant residential, commercial, and industrial growth over the last eight or so years, far outstripping average load growth in our Ohio service areas,” said Richard R. Grigg, executive vice president and chief operating officer for FirstEnergy. “This transmission project is designed to help us continue to provide safe and reliable electric service to our customers in the region.”

FirstEnergy worked with URS, a nationally known engineering firm specializing in transmission issues, to determine the best route for the project. As required by OPSB regulations, the application includes descriptions of a preferred and alternate route for the proposed transmission line:

- **Preferred Route** – It largely follows a cross-country route originating at a new substation that will be built to the west of CEI’s existing Huntsburg Substation on Mayfield Road in Huntsburg Township. From there, the preferred route runs north for approximately 14.7 miles, through portions of Huntsburg, Montville and Thompson townships in Geauga County and into Madison Township in Lake County where it interconnects with ATSI’s existing 138-kV Mayfield-Ashtabula transmission line. This mostly rural route would cross approximately 87 properties.

- **Alternate Route** – It largely follows a road corridor route located adjacent to Clay Street, and originates at a new substation that will be built near the intersection of Clay Street and Mayfield Road in Huntsburg Township. From there, the alternate route runs north for approximately 12 miles through Huntsburg, Montville and Thompson townships to a point in Thompson Township where it interconnects with ATSI’s existing 138-kV Mayfield-Ashtabula transmission line. This road-corridor route would cross approximately 182 properties.

With the completed application now filed, the OPSB will appoint an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to conduct hearings on the merits of the proposed line. The ALJ will establish dates for public and adjudicatory hearings in this case. Once these dates are scheduled, the company will publish two separate public notices in local newspapers, advising of the date, time and place for the public hearing, which will be held in Geauga County and will provide all interested parties the opportunity to speak regarding the project.

The adjudicatory hearing will be held at the OPSB’s offices in Columbus, and will provide an opportunity for ATSI, CEI, OPSB staff and other interveners to call and examine witnesses regarding the project. OPSB staff now are reviewing the application, and will issue a staff report and recommendation 15 days before the public hearing.

Following the hearing process, the OPSB will make the decision as to whether the Geauga County transmission line project should go forward and, if so, the routing for the project. A decision is expected in mid-2008.

A detailed Ohio Power Siting Board Process Flow Chart is available at:  
<http://www.puco.ohio.gov/emplibrary/files/media/OPSB/flowchart.pdf>.

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 our, or our 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 our 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, economic or weather conditions affecting future sales and margins, changes in markets for energy services, changing energy and commodity market prices, 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 including revised environmental requirements, 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 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) as disclosed in our SEC filings, 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 Supreme Court of Ohio regarding the Rate Stabilization Plan and the Rate Certainty Plan, including the deferral of fuel costs) and the PPUC (including the resolution of the Petitions for Review filed with the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania with respect to the transition rate plan for Met-Ed and Penelec, the continuing availability of generating units and their ability to continue to operate at or near full capacity, the ability to comply with applicable state and federal reliability standards, the inability 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 ability to access the public securities and other capital markets and the cost of such capital, the outcome, cost and other effects of present and potential legal and administrative proceedings and claims related to the August 14, 2003 regional power outage, the risks and other factors discussed from time to time in our 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 us to predict all such factors, nor can we 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. We expressly disclaim 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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