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**FirstEnergy Utilities Prepare for High Winds and Thunderstorms
Forecast to Impact the Region Beginning This Evening
Company Personnel Ready to Respond to Service Interruptions Caused by Wind
Gusts Expected to Reach 50 MPH in Some Areas**

Akron, Ohio – FirstEnergy (NYSE: FE) utility personnel are prepared to respond to outages caused by the high winds and thunderstorms forecast for the eastern U.S. beginning later today through Thursday.

Company meteorologists are monitoring a powerful storm system that is expected to produce severe thunderstorms and sustained high winds gusting in excess of 50 mph in FirstEnergy's Ohio utility service areas later tonight and the remaining areas in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey into Thursday.

FirstEnergy utilities include: Ohio Edison, The Illuminating Company and Toledo Edison in Ohio; Metropolitan Edison Company (Met-Ed), Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec), Pennsylvania Power (Penn Power), and West Penn Power in Pennsylvania; Mon Power in West Virginia; Potomac Edison in Maryland; and Jersey Central Power & Light in New Jersey.

All of FirstEnergy's 10 electric utilities are holding conference calls to review storm response plans, which could include staffing additional dispatchers and analysts at regional dispatch offices, along with making arrangements to bring in additional line, substation and forestry personnel, as required, based on the severity of the weather. In addition, FirstEnergy has been in contact with contractors and electric industry mutual assistance organizations about the possibility of assisting with storm restoration efforts.

“We are monitoring the weather conditions closely and are making plans to deploy resources to the areas that could get hit the hardest,” said Mark Julian, vice president, Utility Operations, FirstEnergy. “The ultimate goal of our pre-planning efforts is to speed the restoration process and minimize any inconvenience our customers experience due to the weather.”

Customers who are without power are encouraged to call 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) to report their outage or click the “Report Outage” link on www.firstenergycorp.com. In the event of severe weather, customers should immediately report downed wires to their utility or their local police or fire department. Customers should never go near a downed power line, even if they think it is no longer carrying electricity. Extra caution should be exercised in areas where downed wires may be tangled in downed tree branches or other debris.

For updated information on the company's current outages, FirstEnergy's storm restoration process and tips for staying safe, visit the 24/7 Power Center at www.firstenergycorp.com/outages.

Customers are encouraged to prepare for the possibility of outages caused by high winds:

- Keep electronic devices such as cell phones, laptops and tablet computers fully charged to be ready for any emergencies.
- Keep a flashlight, portable radio and extra batteries handy in the event a power interruption occurs. Tune to a local station for current storm information.

- Never use a portable generator inside the house or a closed garage in the event of a power outage. Ensure the proper generator is selected and installed by a qualified electrician. When operating a generator, the power coming into the home should always be disconnected. Otherwise, power from the generator could be sent back onto the utility lines, creating a hazardous situation for utility workers.
- Gather extra blankets or a sleeping bag for each person. Do not use gas stoves, kerosene heaters or other open-flame heat sources to prevent deadly carbon monoxide gas from building up in your home.
- If you have a water well and pump, keep an emergency supply of bottled water and/or fill your bathtub with fresh water.
- Stock an emergency supply of convenience foods that do not require cooking.
- Mobile phones can be charged in your vehicle using a car charger when the power is out. If you have a smart phone, this will ensure you have access to online information sources.

FirstEnergy customers also can subscribe to email and text message alert notifications to receive weather alerts in advance of major storms, and updates on scheduled or extended power outages. Customers can also use two-way text messaging to report outages, request updates on restoration efforts, and make other inquiries about their electric accounts. More information about these communications tools is available online at www.firstenergycorp.com/connect.

FirstEnergy Corp. is dedicated to safety, reliability and operational excellence. Its 10 electric distribution companies form one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems, serving customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland and New York. Follow FirstEnergy and its operating companies on Twitter: [@FirstEnergyCorp](https://twitter.com/FirstEnergyCorp), [@ToledoEdison](https://twitter.com/ToledoEdison), [@IlluminatingCo](https://twitter.com/IlluminatingCo), [@OhioEdison](https://twitter.com/OhioEdison), [@MonPowerWV](https://twitter.com/MonPowerWV), [@JCP L](https://twitter.com/JCP_L), [@Penn Power](https://twitter.com/PennPower), [@Penelec](https://twitter.com/Penelec), [@Met Ed](https://twitter.com/MetEd), [@PotomacEdison](https://twitter.com/PotomacEdison), [@W Penn Power](https://twitter.com/WPennPower).