



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

Ohio Sierra Club  
Nuclear Free Committee  
131 North High Street, Suite 605  
Columbus, OH 43215-3026



**NO OHIO ELECTRIC RE-REGULATION!  
NO MORE BAILOUTS FOR DAVIS-BESSE AND PERRY NUKES!  
TELL THE OHIO LEGISLATURE--NO MORE RATEPAYER GOUGING!**

Find and contact your legislators online at [www.legislature.ohio.gov](http://www.legislature.ohio.gov).  
*Subsidies are intended for startup industries, not for well-established or outdated ones.  
Dirty, dangerous, outdated electric sources NOT NEEDED!*

**Electric utilities refused to modernize:** Instead of joining the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and diversifying with renewables, Ohio's electric utilities dug even deeper into their outdated energy sources. As a result, these utilities now find themselves unable to compete. They want legislators and the public to think they are too big to fail. They have engaged in a nationwide push to get the public to bail them out for their mistakes.



***FIRSTENERGY HAS BEEN (AND IS) A PARTICULAR PROBLEM.*** FirstEnergy owns the financially-failing Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear reactors (power plants) on Lake Erie. Because of these expensive and in-need-of-major-repairs nukes, they are in more of a financial pickle than other utilities. They are leading the effort for a legislative bailout. ***NOW THEY WANT TO SELL THESE PLANTS, BUT STILL WANT A BAILOUT.***

***FIRSTENERGY LED THE FIGHT AGAINST WIND AND SOLAR IN OHIO.*** Instead of developing renewable energy, electric utilities fought to undermine wind and solar competition to keep their nuclear and coal plants viable. FirstEnergy led the charge for Ohio Senate Bill 310 which froze Ohio's renewable energy standards in 2014. They continue to lobby against renewables. **Ohio has excess electric capacity!**

***FIRSTENERGY RECEIVED \$9 BILLION WHEN UTILITIES WERE DEREGULATED IN 1999.*** Utilities said they wanted to compete. FirstEnergy received over \$9 billion for stranded asset costs under deregulation. Now they say they cannot compete and want to be bailed out again, this time by being **re-regulated** so they can charge higher rates. In 2016 they asked for \$8 billion from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, but "only" got \$1 billion, which they say is NOT ENOUGH.

***DAVIS-BESSE: SOLVENT OR INSOLVENT?*** Back in August of 2014, FirstEnergy went to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio asking for a bailout, claiming financial woes with Davis-Besse. On March 31, 2016, [FirstEnergy showed a profit for Davis-Besse](#) and the Sammis coal plant. FirstEnergy's 2016 financial statement showed a large paper writeoff loss, but without the paper loss they made an overall profit. In their 10-K financial statement they estimate the **value of their 2 Ohio nuclear plants to be only \$245.9 million!** Why should ratepayers give them billions? ***TO STAY IN THE BLACK, FIRSTENERGY IS DEFERRING NEEDED UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE TO THEIR NUCLEAR PLANTS.***

**NO ZERO-EMISSION CREDITS (ZECs) FOR NUKES! Nuclear Power is NOT Carbon Free.** Immense amounts of energy are used to fuel nuclear plants, from uranium mining, milling and enrichment to fuel fabrication. Not to mention the energy it will take to keep radioactive nuclear waste isolated essentially forever. ***THE REAL ZERO EMISSIONS CREDITS SHOULD GO TO WIND AND SOLAR.***

In asking for ZECs, FirstEnergy and nuclear proponents claim that nuclear is "carbon free." ***DO OHIO LEGISLATORS DENY HUMAN-GENERATED CARBON CAUSES GLOBAL WARMING AND STILL SUPPORT ZERO CARBON EMISSION CREDITS?*** In Illinois and New York, legislators recently passed ZECs for nuclear power – and lawsuits have been filed against those statutes. continued on page 2

## NO NEED FOR NUCLEAR – 3 NEW 900+ MW GAS PLANTS ARE IN THE WORKS IN OHIO.

**Nuclear power is incompatible with warming weather.** Warmer water cannot be used for cooling. Every summer overly-warm water shuts down US nuclear plants – just when electricity demand is highest. See the Sierra Club fact sheet “[How Nuclear Power Worsens Climate Change.](#)”

**Regressive rate burden:** Low-income residents bear the highest burden of increased electric rates. Ratepayers in FirstEnergy territory in Northern Ohio already have the highest electric rates in the state due to the expense of building and operating Davis-Besse and Perry.

**Renewables are now cheaper** and less polluting, with no radioactivity and much less carbon. There are now more jobs in solar and wind than in nuclear or coal. [Solar deployment numbers for 2016](#) show a 95% growth! [Utilities bought more new solar capacity](#) than natural gas capacity: 22 states added more than 100 MW of solar each. Jobs in solar energy and efficiency are growing all across Ohio. Wind was booming across Ohio until Ohio legislators gave wind the largest setback regulations in the nation.

**Will Ohio legislators set up a new kind of “free enterprise” system?** A system where the public invests and takes losses while corporations take the profits is fundamentally undemocratic.

**Myth of centralized generation:** Distributed generation is more flexible. If one windmill is not turning it is not as big a problem as when one nuclear plant is offline. Locally-sourced power has some major efficiencies. Because of the increase in renewables, the inability to supply electricity is more likely, and more serious, with single large sources.

**Continuous Subsidies:** Utilities lobbied against subsidies for wind and solar, while reaping far larger subsidies for coal and nuclear. The 2011 Union of Concerned Scientists report, “[Nuclear Power: Still Not Viable without Subsidies](#)” shows that the cost of subsidies for nuclear power in some instances has been greater than the value of the energy produced. On top of taxpayer subsidies, electric ratepayers across the nation pay more in areas with nuclear power.



**Davis-Besse and Perry pose catastrophic risks.** All old reactors have deteriorating, brittle steel and concrete. Davis-Besse has a cracked shield building. Compliance with fire protection will be a major price tag. Perry sits on an earthquake fault. It was named by Reuters as the world’s most dangerous nuclear plant in terms of worker safety. Would our legislators bail out FirstEnergy if one of these had had a meltdown in the last year?

**Every day reactors release radioactivity.** Not only reactors themselves, but the acquisition of their fuel pollutes with chemicals and radioactivity. To get an overall idea of this picture, see the Sierra Club fact sheet “[Conversion, Enrichment, Fuel Fabrication, MOX Fuel and more.](#)”

**High-level radioactive waste,** the used fuel at reactors, is building up. *Bailouts make future generations responsible for much more waste.* A typical nuclear power plant produces about 20 metric tons of used nuclear fuel per year. *There is no good solution for what to do with this waste.* Fuel pools at Davis-Besse and Perry already hold several times as many rods as they were designed to hold.



**RENEWABLES ARE  
THE *REAL* ANSWER!**

*\* If you are reading this in print,  
hyperlinked references can be  
found at*

[www.sierraclub.org/ohio/nuclear](http://www.sierraclub.org/ohio/nuclear)

