



Prepared statements of PUCO commissioners regarding cases 17-974-EL-UNC, 17-2474-EL-UNC  
and 20-1629-EL-RDR  
November 19, 2025

[Recorded livestream](#)

**Chair Jenifer French:**

The Commission has remained steadfast in ensuring that we have followed the facts wherever they may lead in these proceedings. We have been determined to act in a deliberate manner, based upon facts rather than speculation, and in following our statutory authority. Collectively, in these proceedings, there have been two evidentiary hearings, 14 prehearing conferences, 92 issued Commission and administrative law judge entries, as well as 16 interlocutory appeals and seven applications for rehearing. Parties have had wide and broad latitude throughout the evidentiary hearing process. We are confident that this approach has been thorough and within our jurisdictional authority while not interfering with other ongoing federal and state criminal investigations and has resulted in a just outcome and order.

These proceedings were the first, and we trust the last, of their kind. It is our responsibility and duty to impose appropriate remedies so as to ensure that they are.

**Commissioner Dan Conway**

Today's order completes three of the four investigations we initiated into FirstEnergy's conduct that, broadly related, involved or had a connection to House Bill 6.

There are three separate lenses through which these three cases, and this one order resolving them, evaluated possible misconduct and mistakes related to House Bill 6.

One lens is our corporate separation law and rules; another is the companies' Distribution Modernization Rider; and the third is their Delivery Capital Recovery Rider.

Our investigations found in each case very significant misconduct and mistakes.

**Commissioners**

Daniel R. Conway  
Dennis P. Deters  
Lawrence K. Friedeman  
John D. Williams

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The remedies that we have imposed, including restitution and forfeitures, are, appropriately, also very significant.

I believe that a couple of additional points are worth making, and emphasizing: first, this order is not an indictment of FirstEnergy's current management structure and leadership.

Second, and on the contrary, it is important to recognize that FE's current management has conducted wide-ranging and thorough reviews of its policies, management structure and practices. And it has implemented numerous changes that both promote its newly adopted core values and establish safeguards designed to prevent misconduct and mistakes in the future. Our order does recognize those efforts.

But, while we recognize those efforts, the severity and pattern of past misconduct and violations require us also to recognize and remedy them today.

#### **Commissioner Lawrence K. Friedeman**

As this journey began, the Commission expressed its unequivocal intent to follow the facts wherever they led. Today we reach the destination. Today's actions reflect an appropriate and well-reasoned conclusion. In my opinion, the FirstEnergy utilities not only breached the regulatory compact all franchised utilities have with the Commission, but, more importantly, with the utilities' betrayal of trust, breached what I suggest should be recognized as a social compact with FirstEnergy customers.

Consistent with that proposition I applaud the structure of the monetary components of our decisions which are expressly intended to assure that the primary beneficiaries of the awards granted today are First Energy customers.

#### **Commissioner Dennis Deters**

The underlying activity and bribes represent an unnerving shadow over our regulatory responsibilities in this state and have harmed every consumer whose interests we are entrusted to protect in proceedings before us. Although many of the actions urged by intervenors lie beyond the authority granted to us, when we do have the power to order restitution for Ohioans harmed by the companies' actions discussed in these proceedings, we must do so in the interest of justice. We acknowledge FirstEnergy's efforts in reviewing its policies to implement reforms that strengthen its corporate values and establish clearer

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safeguards against future misconduct. While these efforts are recognized, the severity and persistent nature of past violations require us to take decisive action today.

**Commissioner John Williams**

I am deeply disappointed by the conduct and decisions of FirstEnergy, which ultimately led to these proceedings. They violated one of their most fundamental responsibilities: maintaining the public's trust in their role as a regulated public utility. I am hopeful the remedies we approved today will serve as a strong deterrent against similar misconduct in the future. Our actions today should also stand as a clear reminder to FirstEnergy of the importance of continuing to reform its corporate culture and work diligently to rebuild the trust of the public.

**Commissioners**

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