

## **FIRSTENERGY'S E GROUP BECOMES ENERGY STAR® PARTNER**

Akron, Ohio – The E Group has been approved as an ENERGY STAR® Service and Product Provider Partner in the commercial and industrial sectors. The E Group is part of FirstEnergy Solutions Corp., an unregulated subsidiary of Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE). The partnership with ENERGY STAR expands the selection of energy management services currently available to E Group clients, providing more options to those interested in improving the energy efficiency of their business locations and operations.

ENERGY STAR is a government-sponsored program in association with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy that promotes energy-efficiency products and voluntary programs for residential and commercial consumers.

As an ENERGY STAR Partner, The E Group integrates the program's tools and resources into its business practices, including the EPA's energy performance rating system, which provides a 1 to 100 score on the energy efficiency of buildings. Those buildings that score a 75 or higher can earn the ENERGY STAR designation. In 2007, The E Group plans to automate access to the rating system for its customers to help them analyze the energy performance of eligible buildings, including offices, K-12 schools, hospitals, hotels, motels, medical offices, supermarkets, residence halls, dormitories and warehouses. ENERGY STAR will expand its rating system to include benchmarking for retail stores in early 2007.

“We are committed to helping our customers save money on energy-related expenses,” says Eileen Mikkelsen, director of The E Group. “Our partnership with ENERGY STAR helps us to better accomplish this goal. In addition, our customers have the ability to lessen their environmental impact after they are certified.”

The E Group provides energy consulting services, including utility bill payment, bill auditing, electric and natural gas procurement, and demand side management to

commercial and industrial customers in the United States. Businesses in these markets can contact Aldo Deiulis, manager of The E Group Sales and Customer Accounts, at (330) 315-6974.

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 serving 4.5 million customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and its generation subsidiaries control more than 14,000 megawatts of capacity.

The EPA started the ENERGY STAR program in 1992. As a government-backed program, it helps businesses and consumers protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. Last year alone, American consumers and businesses, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved \$12 billion and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equal to those from 23 million vehicles. For more information on ENERGY STAR, go to:

*<http://energystar.gov>*.

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