

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form 35-CERT

FIRSTENERGY CORP
Form 35-CERT
November 26, 2002

SEC FILE NO. 70-7727
SEC FILE NO. 70-8593
SEC FILE NO. 70-9793
SEC FILE NO. 70-9941

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO

RULE 24

OF PARTIAL COMPLETION OF

TRANSACTIONS

FirstEnergy Corp.

In the matter of :
FirstEnergy Corp. : Certificate Pursuant
: to Rule 24 of Partial
: Completion of
: Transactions
SEC File No. 70-7727 :
SEC File No. 70-8593 :
SEC File No. 70-9793 :
SEC File No. 70-9941 :
(Public Utility Holding Company Act :
of 1935) :

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION:

The undersigned, FirstEnergy hereby certifies pursuant to Rule 24 of the Rules and Regulations under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (the Act), that certain of the transactions proposed in the Applications, as amended, filed in SEC File No. 70-7727, 70-8593, 70-9793 and 70-9941 respectively, have been carried out in accordance with the Commission's Orders dated October 29, 2001, December 19, 2000, December 22, 1997, November 16, 1995, June 14, 1995, December 28, 1994, September 12, 1994, December 18, 1992, and June 26, 1990 with respect to the transactions proposed in the Application, as amended, in SEC File No. 70-7727, and the Commission's Orders dated December 26, 2000, December 22, 1997, November 5, 1997, March 6, 1996, January 19, 1996 and July 6, 1995 with respect to the transactions proposed in the Application, as amended, in SEC File No. 70-8593, as follows.

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form 35-CERT

1. Guarantees Issued

As successor-by-merger to GPU, FirstEnergy assumed all obligations of GPU under the following guarantees which were outstanding during the period July 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002:

(a) Guaranty dated September 1, 1999 for up to \$21.3 million in connection with the conversion of a construction loan to a term loan for the Termobarranquilla (TEBSA) project in Colombia. This guarantee expires four years after the loan conversion date (September 2003).

(b) Guarantee of the obligations of GPUI Colombia Ltd., and International Power Advisors, Inc. (the Operators), both of which are subsidiaries of GPU Power, Inc. (GPU Power), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of FirstEnergy, under the operations and maintenance agreement (O&M Agreement) in the TEBSA project. The liability of the Operators under the O&M Agreement is \$5.9 million.

(c) Guaranty to General Electric Capital Corporation of amounts up to the lesser of six months average rent (approximately \$8.1 million) or \$10 million, to the extent Lake Cogen, Ltd. fails to pay rent when due under the terms of the project lease or chooses not to renew the lease after its initial 11-year term, which expires in August 2004. Lake Cogen, Ltd. is a former subsidiary of GPU International, Inc., which was sold by GPU to Aquila Energy Corporation (Aquila) in December 2000. Aquila has indemnified FirstEnergy for any losses, which FirstEnergy may incur under this guaranty.

2. Investments by FirstEnergy in Exempt Wholesale Generators and Foreign Utility Companies, and Percentage of Equity Ownership

Set forth below is a summary of the direct or indirect investments as defined in SEC Rule 53(a) by FirstEnergy, as of September 30, 2002 in EWGs and foreign utility companies (FUCOs), as well as the percentage of equity ownership.

3

Associate Company	FUCO or EWG	Energy's Energy's Investment at 9/30/02 (\$000)	First Energy's % Equity Owner- ship	Owners not affiliated with FirstEnergy	
				Name of Entity	Type of Entity
Empresa Guaracachi S.A.	EWG	29,536	50%	AFP Prevision BBV AFP Futuro de Bolivia	Foreign Foreign
Guaracachi America, Inc.	EWG	50,393*	100%	Not Applicable	N/A
GPU Power, Inc.	EWG	153,390*	100%	Not Applicable	N/A

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form 35-CERT

EI International	EWG	1,258*	100%	Not Applicable	N/A
GPUI Colombia, Ltda.	EWG	1,627*	100%	Not Applicable	N/A
Midlands Electricity plc (Midlands)	FUCO	59,310	20%	Aquila, Inc.	Domestic
Termobarranquilla S.A.	EWG	92,004	29%	ABB Energy Ventures, Inc. Lancaster Steel Distral Group Corp. Electrica De la Costa Atlantica	Foreign Foreign Foreign
EI Barranquilla, Inc.	EWG	43,684*	100%	Not Applicable	N/A
Barranquilla Lease Holdings, Inc.	EWG	44,826*	100%	Not Applicable	N/A
Los Amigos Leasing Company, Ltd.	EWG	12*	100%	Not Applicable	N/A
International Power Advisors, Inc.	EWG	3,962*	100%	Not Applicable	N/A

4

Associate Company	FUCO or EWG	Energy's Energy's Investment at 9/30/02 (\$000)	First Energy's % Equity Owner-ship	Owners not affiliated with FirstEnergy Name of Entity	Type of Entity
Empresa Distribuidora Electrica Regional, S.A. (EMDERSA)	FUCO	361,440	100%	Not Applicable	N/A
FE Generation Corp.	EWG	729,565	100%	Not Applicable	N/A
Total Aggregate Investment in EWGs & FUCOs *		\$1,271,855			

(*) FirstEnergy's aggregate investment does not include the items shown with

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form 35-CERT

asterisks in order to avoid duplication.

As of September 30, 2002, FirstEnergy also owned, directly or indirectly, a 100% interest in each of the following EWGs, in which its aggregate investment did not exceed \$10,000: GPU Power Philippines, Inc.; and Hanover Energy Corporation.

In accordance with Orders dated July 6, 1995 and March 6, 1996 in SEC File No. 70-8593, and Orders dated October 29, 2001 in SEC File No. 70-9793 and 70-9941 and in addition to the reimbursement agreements described in item 1 above, the following is reported:

1. Financial Statements

A copy of GPU Capital, Inc.'s (GPU Capital) and GPU Power's unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2002 and unaudited Consolidated Statements of Operations for the twelve months ended September 30, 2002 will be filed separately under a request for confidential treatment pursuant to Rule 104(b).

GPU Capital was incorporated to secure financing to prepay indebtedness of certain subsidiaries of GPU Electric, Inc. (GPU Electric), and for working capital purposes including investments and acquisitions. A capital contribution was made to GPU Capital of all of the issued and outstanding common stock of GPU Electric, which then became a wholly owned subsidiary of GPU Capital. GPU Capital is a wholly owned subsidiary of FirstEnergy.

5

GPU Capital and GPU Electric own and operate electric transmission and distribution systems outside the United States and will be referred to as "GPU Electric."

2. Investments in Exempt Entities

In July 1999, GPU Electric became the 100% owner (formerly 50% owner) of Avon Energy Partners Holdings, Inc. (Avon) by acquiring the additional 50% ownership interest for (pound)452.5 million (approximately US \$714 million). Accordingly, GPU Electric became the sole owner of Midlands' electric distribution and contracting businesses as well as independent power plants worldwide. The acquisition was financed at that time through a US \$250 million equity contribution, the issuance of US \$50 million of commercial paper by GPU Capital, and a two-year (pound)245 million (approximately US \$357 million) credit agreement entered into by EI UK Holdings (EI UK), a wholly owned subsidiary of GPU Electric.

In March 2002, FirstEnergy announced that it had finalized terms of a joint venture agreement with Aquila, Inc. (formerly Utilicorp United) for Aquila to acquire partial ownership of Avon. Accordingly, on May 8, 2002 Aquila acquired a 79.9 percent interest in Avon for approximately \$1.9 billion including the assumption of \$1.7 billion of debt. FirstEnergy (through GPU Electric) and Aquila together own all of the outstanding shares of Avon through a jointly owned subsidiary, Aquila Sterling Holdings, Inc. (ASH) with each company having a 50 percent voting interest. FirstEnergy's investment in ASH is

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form 35-CERT

held by EI UK.

In 1999, GPU Electric acquired Empresa Distribuidora Electrica Regional, S.A. (Emdersa), an Argentine holding company, for \$375 million. The acquisition was financed at that time through the issuance of commercial paper by GPU Capital and a \$50 million capital contribution.

All of the acquisition debt associated with FirstEnergy's ownership of the above mentioned FUCOs has been retired.

3. Description of Exempt Entities in Which There are Funds Invested

FirstEnergy Generation Corp

FirstEnergy Generation, incorporated in October 2000, is a wholly owned subsidiary of First Energy Solutions. FirstEnergy Generation operates fossil fuel plants and a pumped storage plant, most of which is leased from the FirstEnergy Solutions companies and sells all of its output at wholesale prices to FirstEnergy Solutions.

Empresa Guaracachi, S.A.

In July 1995, GPU Power, through Guaracachi America, Inc. acquired from the Bolivian Government a 50% interest in Empresa Guaracachi, S.A.(EGSA). EGSA has an aggregate capacity of 338 MW of natural gas-fired and oil-fired generation facilities located in Bolivia in and around the cities of Santa Cruz, Sucre and Potosi which represents more than one-third of Bolivia's generation capacity.

Termobarranquilla, S.A.

In October 1995, GPU Power, through EI Barranquilla, Inc., acquired a 29% interest in Termobarranquilla, S.A., Empresa de Servicios Publicos (TEBSA). TEBSA has an aggregate capacity of 890 MW of gas-fired generation facilities located near Barranquilla, Colombia. Electricity generated by these facilities is sold to Corporacion Electrica de la Costa Atlantica under a long-term (20.5 years) contract.

Barranquilla Lease Holdings, Inc. and Los Amigos Leasing Company, Ltd.

Barranquilla Lease Holdings, Inc., a subsidiary of GPU Power, through its wholly owned subsidiary Los Amigos Leasing Company, Ltd. (Leaseco), owns and leases to TEBSA equipment in generation facilities constructed and operated by TEBSA. The lease provides for TEBSA to make monthly lease payments to Leaseco through September 2011.

Midlands

Midlands distributes electricity to 2.3 million customers in England in an

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form 35-CERT

area with a population of five million. Midlands also owns an independent power production business that generates electricity in England and internationally.

Emdersa

Emdersa owns three electric distribution companies that serve three provinces in northwest Argentina. The three distribution companies serve approximately 335,000 customers throughout a service territory of approximately 124,300 square miles. The provinces have a total population of about 1.5 million.

4. Services Obtained From Associated Companies -----

FirstEnergy Generation received administrative and construction services from associate companies (primarily FirstEnergy Service Company) in the amount of \$13,719,602 for the three months ended September 30, 2002. GPU Service, Inc. provided administrative services to GPU Power and GPU Electric in the amount of \$182,590 and \$230,531 respectively, for the three months ended September 30, 2002 in support of operations and management activities.

5. Services Provided to Associated Companies -----

A description of services provided by FirstEnergy Generation and GPU Power to associate companies during the period July 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002 will be filed separately under a request for confidential treatment under Rule 104(b). GPU Electric did not provide any services to associate companies during this reporting period.

In accordance with the Commission's Order dated November 5, 1997 in SEC File No. 70-8593, and the Order dated October 29, 2001 in SEC File No. 70-9793 and 70-9941 the following is reported:

7

a) FirstEnergy's aggregate investment includes all amounts invested, or committed to be invested, in foreign utility companies (FUCOs) and exempt wholesale generators (EWGs), for which there is recourse, directly or indirectly, to the registered holding company. Accordingly, FirstEnergy's aggregate investment as of September 30, 2002 is as follows:

	(In Thousands)

FUCOs	

Midlands Electricity plc	\$ 59,310
Emdersa	361,440

Subtotal	420,750

EWGs

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form 35-CERT

FE Generation Corp.	\$	729,565
Termobarranquilla, S.A.		92,004
Empresa Guaracachi, S.A.		29,536

Subtotal		851,105

Aggregate Investment in FUCOs and EWGs	\$	1,271,855
		=====

b) As of September 30, 2002 FirstEnergy's Aggregate Investment in FUCOs and EWGs (in thousands) is \$1,271,855.

Aggregate Investment as a Percentage of FirstEnergy and Subsidiary Companies:

Total capitalization	\$ 22,380,615	5.7%
Net utility plant	\$ 12,543,108	10.1%
Total consolidated assets	\$ 34,165,554	3.7%
Market value of common equity	\$ 8,896,348	14.3%

c) FirstEnergy and Subsidiary Companies Consolidated Capitalization Ratios as of September 30, 2002:

	Amount (000's)	%
	-----	-
Common equity	\$ 7,792,774	34.8
Cumulative preferred stock	373,182	1.7
Subsidiary-obligated mandatorily redeemable preferred securities	409,763	1.8
Subsidiary-obligated trust preferred securities	-	-
Long-term debt	12,551,483	56.1
Notes payable	1,253,413	5.6
	-----	-----
Total capitalization	\$ 22,380,615	100.0%
	=====	=====

d) Market-to-book ratio of FirstEnergy and Subsidiary Companies common stock at September 30, 2002:

Closing Market Price per Share	\$	29.89
Book Value per Share	\$	26.46
Market-to Book Ratio of Common Stock		112.9%

8

e) Analysis of Growth in Retained Earnings for FirstEnergy and Subsidiary Companies:

	(In Thousands)

Retained Earnings as of 09/30/02	\$1,852,298
Retained Earnings as of 12/31/01	1,521,805

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form 35-CERT

Growth in Retained Earnings	\$ 330,493
	=====

Analysis of Growth in Retained Earnings:

Income contribution from regulated utility companies	\$ 796,060
Income contribution from FUCOs/EWGs	62,106
Income contribution from all other companies	(46,308)
FirstEnergy Holding and Service companies	(151,800)
Cash dividends declared on common stock	(329,565)

Growth in Retained Earnings	\$ 330,493
	=====

f) Statements of Operations for the period ended September 30, 2002 for the following Project Parents and Exempt Entities will be filed separately under a request for confidential treatment under Rule 104 (b):

Termobarranquilla, S.A.
GPUI Colombia, Ltda.
Empresa Guaracachi, S.A.
FirstEnergy Generation Corp.
Emdersa

9

SIGNATURE

PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY HOLDING COMPANY ACT OF 1935, THE UNDERSIGNED COMPANY HAS DULY CAUSED THIS CERTIFICATE TO BE SIGNED ON ITS BEHALF BY THE UNDERSIGNED THEREUNTO DULY AUTHORIZED.

FirstEnergy Corp.

By:/s/ Harvey L. Wagner

Harvey L. Wagner
Vice President, Controller
and Chief Accounting Officer

Date: November 26, 2002

10