

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

**Joint Petition of Metropolitan Edison
Company, Pennsylvania Electric
Company, and Pennsylvania Power
Company for Approval of Smart Meter
Technology Procurement and
Installation Plan**

**Public Meeting held April 15, 2010
2123950-OSA**

Docket No. M-2009-2123950

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER WAYNE E. GARDNER

Today we approved FirstEnergy's Act 129 Smart Meter filing. The Companies requested and have been given 24 months to further assess Plan needs and technology solutions; select vendors, design the smart meter network; and, train personnel. The Companies intend to test 5,000-10,000 meters and troubleshoot between 2011 and 2014. The Companies plan system wide installation of the smart meters between 2017 and 2022.

Act 129 requires deployment within 15 years of Plan approval, or by 2025. While the FirstEnergy Companies' 2022 target for complete installation is three years earlier, I believe that they can and should aim for full deployment sooner than 2022.

Every year that the Companies wait represents money that ratepayers could potentially save on their electric utility bills. The sooner that customers are given access to tools such as smart meters which allow them to better gauge how their usage patterns correspond to the price of electricity generation, the sooner the customers will have the option of tailoring their individual usage patterns to save money on their electric bills. I strongly advise FirstEnergy that it is in the best interest of all parties involved, especially its customers, to deploy the smart meters as soon as safe and reliable operations will allow.

April 15, 2010
Date

Wayne E. Gardner, Commissioner