

Corporate Greed Runs Rank at FirstEnergy

Union workers and community activists are taking a stand against corporate greed and public service cutbacks at FirstEnergy, even as the giant utility company's shareholders gather for the annual corporate meeting.

During 2012, FirstEnergy's board of directors lavished \$23.3 million in total compensation on CEO Tony Alexander – a staggering 27% increase over his \$18.3 million in 2011 – even though corporate revenue and earnings declined. *Alexander's total pay package is worth 204 times the median utility worker's pay!*



Meanwhile FirstEnergy's top bosses are demanding huge concessions from hourly workers during bargaining with the Utility Workers Union of America, including cuts in pay and benefits for workers responding to customer service outages, elimination of workers' jobs through subcontracting, and other painful cutbacks for working families.

One of FirstEnergy's concession proposals is a demand to eliminate the entire "customer service" section from a union contract covering nearly 1,000 utility workers in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. The UWUA believes this wrong-headed proposal would cause longer delays in emergency power restorations for customers.

In addition, the National Labor Relations Board issued a complaint earlier this year charging that FirstEnergy illegally cut hourly workers' wages and benefits and engaged in other bad faith bargaining tactics at the company's Harrison power station in Shinnston, W. Va. Despite a recent \$1.25 million backpay settlement in the case, workers at the Harrison plant are still struggling for their first union contract more than two years after voting for union representation.

FirstEnergy corporate greed is bad business – for investors, consumers, and utility workers.

UWUA members are committed to the highest quality and safest utility services possible. We believe utility companies that treat communities and customers they serve with respect, consideration, and the highest ethical and legal standards will also treat employees fairly.

Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO • www.uwua.net