

## BACKGROUND

### Lorain County Community College Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Power Utility Technology

#### Executive Summary/Recommendation

**This program clearly meets Regent's standards for associate degree programs. There were no serious concerns raised in this review.**

**Request:** Lorain County Community College requests approval for an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Power Utility Technology. This new program was developed in partnership with FirstEnergy in response to their growing need for trained Line Worker Technicians.

**Program Purpose/Mission:** First Energy provides an essential service to homes and businesses in a three state area and provides electricity to over 4.5 million customers. The company relies on skilled trained workers to run their power plants and has a history of partnering with local community colleges and universities to offer the technical training programs needed to keep their power plants operating.

FirstEnergy has been working in partnership with several of Ohio's two-year community colleges and universities (Lakeland Community College, Stark State College of Technology, Cuyahoga Community College, Owens Community College and Youngstown State University) for a number of years in the development of several technical two-year degree programs to meet their current and future workforce needs.

Due to the aging of FirstEnergy's workers, the retirement of workers and the lack of skilled entry level workers, FirstEnergy has partnered with Lorain County Community College to address their current and future need for trained Line Worker Technicians in this region of the state. In the coming years, First Energy is projecting a need for at least 50 to 75 trained Line Worker Technicians to maintain and service their various power plants located in the tri-state area.

To assess student interest in this new program the College held an orientation and information session where 142 individuals attended and of that number 122 individuals requested further information regarding the program. FirstEnergy will provide full scholarships including tuition, books and fees for individuals selected for this specific program.

Students successfully completing this program will be able to further their education by enrolling in a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration through the University Partnership at Lorain County Community College.

**Enrollment:** The College is projecting an enrollment of twenty students in 2007-2008 with an additional 12 students enrolling each year for the next three years.

**Curriculum:** The Electric Power Utility Technology Program is structured to provide the students enrolled in the program with the general education and technical courses required for this program, hands-on laboratory experiences using standard and specialized test equipment and appropriate field experiences needed to prepare the students for employment.

**Faculty/Resource Needs:** The Electric Power Utility Technology Program will operate as part of the Engineering Technologies division and will be supervised by the division dean. A member of the full time faculty will be assigned as academic coordinator of the program. No additional full time faculty staff will be required to coordinate or instruct courses for this program. The College has a fully equipped electrical and electronics laboratory needed for the hands-on learning and training experiences required for this profession. Smart and Interactive Video Distance Learning classrooms are available for instruction and develop the program into a partial on-line course if needed. Additional resources will not be required to offer this program.

**Program Duplication:** FirstEnergy has already partnered with several other Ohio institutions to offer the technical training and field experiences needed for their workforce needs.

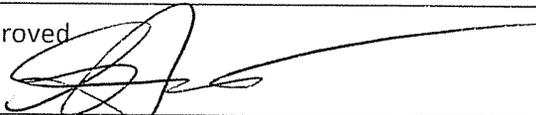
Lorain County Community College contacted each of the other institutions who have already partnered with First Energy to learn from their experiences, explore opportunities to discuss best practices and further program collaboration including the sharing of distance learning capabilities.

The programs at the other colleges are similar in the general education requirements but differ in the technical requirements as each college is focusing on a different area of need at the request FirstEnergy. Those areas include Substation Technician, Overhead Line Technology, Nuclear Power and Fossil Fuel Power Generation.

Lakeland Community College is considering the development of a Great Lakes Regional Training Center to address the workforce needs of the nuclear power industry and welcomes each college partnering with First Energy to join them in this new endeavor.

**Employment Opportunities:** Graduates of the program will be eligible for employment with First Energy with a beginning salary of \$42,000 to \$45,000 a year. Career advancement opportunities are available within the company after completion of a successful probation period.

End of Comment Period: August 24, 2007  
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved		9/4/07
Eric D. Fingerhut		Date