

FIRSTENERGY CORP
Form S-3ASR
May 18, 2012
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 18, 2012

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

FirstEnergy Corp.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

76 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

34-1843785
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

(330) 384-5620

Rhonda S. Ferguson, Esq.

Vice President and Corporate Secretary

FirstEnergy Corp.

76 South Main Street

Akron, Ohio 44308

(330) 384-5620

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service of process)

With a copy to:

Lucas F. Torres, Esq.

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

One Bryant Park

New York, NY 10036

(212) 872-1000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement, as determined by market conditions and other factors.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. (Check one):

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

Large accelerated filer x

Accelerated filer ..

Non-accelerated filer .. (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company ..

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered ⁽¹⁾ ;	Amount of registration fee ⁽²⁾
	Proposed maximum offering price per unit ⁽¹⁾ ; Proposed maximum aggregate offering price ⁽¹⁾	
Common Stock		
Preferred Stock		
Debt Securities		
Warrants		
Share Purchase Contracts		
Share Purchase Units		

- (1) An unspecified number or amount and aggregate initial offering price of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered by the registrant at unspecified prices, including an indeterminate number or amount of securities that may be issued upon exercise, settlement, exchange or conversion of securities offered hereunder. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon exercise, settlement, conversion or exchange of other securities.
- (2) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee. In connection with the securities offered hereby, the registrant will pay pay-as-you-go registration fees in accordance with Rule 456(b).

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

FirstEnergy Corp.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Share Purchase Contracts

Share Purchase Units

This prospectus relates to common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, share purchase contracts, and share purchase units that FirstEnergy Corp. or selling security holders may offer from time to time. Our preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, share purchase contracts and share purchase units may be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our common stock or other securities. The securities may be offered in one or more series and in an amount or number, at prices and on other terms and conditions that we will determine at the time of the offering.

We will provide specific terms of these offerings and securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read carefully this prospectus, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the trading symbol FE.

Investing in these securities involves certain risks. See Risk Factors on page 4 to read about factors you should consider before investing in our securities.

We may offer these securities directly or through underwriters, agents or dealers. The supplements to this prospectus will describe the terms of any particular plan of distribution, including any underwriting arrangements or commissions. Selling security holders may also offer and sell their securities from time to time on terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement. See the Plan of Distribution section beginning on page 18 of this prospectus for more information.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

This prospectus is dated May 18, 2012

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	2
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	4
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK AND PREFERRED STOCK</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	16
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SHARE PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND SHARE PURCHASE UNITS</u>	17
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	18
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	19
<u>INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	19
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	20
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	20

We are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, in any accompanying prospectus supplement, and in any related free writing prospectus we prepare or authorize. We have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for any other information that others may give you. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to sell, or solicitations of offers to purchase, the securities offered by this document are unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this document does not extend to you. The information contained in this document speaks only as of the date of this document, unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing an automatic shelf registration process. We may use this prospectus to offer and sell from time to time any one or a combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will describe in an accompanying prospectus supplement the type, amount or number and other terms and conditions of the securities being offered, the price at which the securities are being offered, and the plan of distribution for the securities. The specific terms of the offered securities may vary from the general terms of the securities described in this prospectus, and accordingly the description of the securities contained in this prospectus is subject to, and qualified by reference to, the specific terms of the offered securities contained in the accompanied prospectus supplement. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus, including information about us, contained in this prospectus. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of the applicable document. Therefore, for a complete understanding of the offered securities, you should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

For more detailed information about the securities, you can also read the exhibits to the registration statement. Those exhibits have been either filed with the registration statement or incorporated by reference to earlier SEC filings listed in the registration statement.

In this prospectus, unless the context indicates otherwise, the words **FirstEnergy**, **the company**, **we**, **our**, **ours** and **us** refer to FirstEnergy and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This registration statement and the information incorporated by reference herein and therein includes forward-looking statements based on information currently available to management. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties. These statements include declarations regarding management's intents, beliefs and current expectations. These statements typically contain, but are not limited to, the terms anticipate, potential, expect, believe, estimate and similar words. Forward-looking statements involve estimates, assumptions, known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

Actual results may differ materially due to:

The speed and nature of increased competition in the electric utility industry.

The impact of the regulatory process on the pending matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and in the various states in which we do business including, but not limited to, matters related to rates.

The status of the Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline, LLC project in light of PJM Interconnection LLC's, or PJM, direction to suspend work on the project pending review of its planning process, its re-evaluation of the need for the project and the uncertainty of the timing and amounts of any related capital expenditures.

The uncertainties of various cost recovery and cost allocation issues resulting from American Transmission Systems, Incorporated's realignment into PJM.

Economic or weather conditions affecting future sales and margins.

Changes in markets for energy services.

Changing energy and commodity market prices and availability.

Financial derivative reforms that could increase our liquidity needs and collateral costs.

The continued ability of our regulated utilities to collect transition and other costs.

Operation and maintenance costs being higher than anticipated.

Other legislative and regulatory changes, and revised environmental requirements, including possible greenhouse gas emission, water intake and coal combustion residual regulations, the potential impacts of any laws, rules or regulations that ultimately replace the Clean Air Interstate Rule, including the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule which was stayed by the courts on December 30, 2011, and the effects of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rules.

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

The uncertainty of the timing and amounts of the capital expenditures that may arise in connection with any litigation, including New Source Review litigation or potential regulatory initiatives or rulemakings (including that such expenditures could result in our decision to shut down or idle certain generating units).

The uncertainties associated with our plan to retire our older unscrubbed regulated and competitive fossil units, including the impact on vendor commitments, and PJM's review of our plans for, and the timing of, those retirements.

Adverse regulatory or legal decisions and outcomes with respect to our nuclear operations (including, but not limited to the revocation or non-renewal of necessary licenses, approvals or operating permits by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or the NRC, or as a result of the incident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant).

Table of Contents

Issues that could result from our continuing evaluation of the indications of cracking in the Davis-Besse Plant shield building imposed by the confirmatory action letter issued by the NRC.

Adverse legal decisions and outcomes related to Metropolitan Edison Company's and Pennsylvania Electric Company's ability to recover certain transmission costs through their transmission service charge riders.

The continuing availability of generating units and changes in their ability to operate at or near full capacity.

Replacement power costs being higher than anticipated or inadequately hedged.

The ability to comply with applicable state and federal reliability standards and energy efficiency mandates.

Changes in customers' demand for power, including but not limited to, changes resulting from the implementation of state and federal energy efficiency mandates.

The ability to accomplish or realize anticipated benefits from strategic goals.

Our ability to improve electric commodity margins and the impact of, among other factors, the increased cost of fuel and fuel transportation on such margins.

The ability to experience growth in the distribution business.

Changing market conditions that could affect the value of assets held in our Nuclear Decommissioning Trust, pension trusts and other trust funds, and cause us and our subsidiaries to make additional contributions sooner, or in amounts that are larger than currently anticipated.

The impact of changes to material accounting policies.

The ability to access the public securities and other capital and credit markets in accordance with our financing plans, the cost of such capital and overall condition of the capital and credit markets affecting us and our subsidiaries.

Changes in general economic conditions affecting us and our subsidiaries.

Interest rates and any actions taken by credit rating agencies that could negatively affect us and our subsidiaries' access to financing, increased costs thereof, and increase requirements to post additional collateral to support outstanding commodity positions, letter of credit and other financial guarantees.

The state of the national and regional economy and its impact on our major industrial and commercial customers.

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

Issues concerning the soundness of domestic and foreign financial institutions and counterparties with which we do business.

The risks and other factors discussed from time to time in our SEC filings, and other similar factors.

Dividends declared from time to time on our common stock during any annual period may in the aggregate vary from the indicated amount due to circumstances considered by our Board of Directors at the time of the actual declarations. A security rating is not a recommendation to buy or hold securities and is subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating agency. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

The foregoing review of factors should not be construed as exhaustive. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all such factors, nor assess the impact of any such factor on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. We expressly disclaim any current intention to update, except as required by law, any forward-looking statements contained herein as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents**THE COMPANY**

FirstEnergy is a diversified energy company dedicated to safety, reliability and operational excellence. Our 10 electric distribution companies comprise one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems. Our diverse generating fleet features non-emitting nuclear, scrubbed baseload coal, natural gas, and pumped-storage hydro and other renewables and, subject to our previously-announced commitment to retire certain fossil generating units by September 1, 2012, has a total generating capacity of approximately 23,000 megawatts.

We are an Ohio corporation, and our principal executive offices are located at 76 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308. Our telephone number is (330) 384-5620 and our Internet website is www.firstenergycorp.com. Information contained on our website shall not be incorporated into, or be a part of, this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. Before purchasing any securities we offer, you should carefully consider the risk factors that are incorporated by reference herein from the section captioned "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement and any other information that we have incorporated by reference, including annual, quarterly and other reports filed with the SEC subsequent to the date hereof. Any of these risks, as well as other risks and uncertainties, could harm or otherwise impact our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. See also "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds we receive from issuance of the securities offered under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a specific issue of securities. General corporate purposes may include, but are not limited to, financing and operating activities, capital expenditures, acquisitions, maintenance of our assets and refinancing our existing indebtedness.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement indicates otherwise, we will not receive any proceeds from the sale of securities by selling security holders.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table contains our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated. You should read these ratios in connection with our consolidated financial statements, including the notes to those statements, incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not presented a ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends because we did not have preferred stock outstanding during any such periods. Therefore, our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred dividends for any given period is equivalent to our ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

	Year Ended December 31,					Three Months
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Ended March 31, 2012
Consolidated Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	3.49	2.07	1.91	2.18	2.25	2.87

Earnings for purposes of the calculation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges have been computed by adding to Income before extraordinary items total interest and other charges, before reduction for amounts capitalized and deferred, provision for income taxes and the estimated interest element of rentals charged to income. Fixed charges include interest on long-term debt, other interest expense, subsidiaries' preferred stock dividend requirements and the estimated interest element of rentals charged to income.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK AND PREFERRED STOCK

Certain provisions of our Amended Articles of Incorporation, as amended, or Articles of Incorporation, and Amended Code of Regulations, as amended, or Code of Regulations, are summarized or referred to below. The summaries are merely an outline, do not purport to be complete, do not relate to or give effect to the provisions of statutory or common law, and are qualified in their entirety by express reference to our Articles of Incorporation and Code of Regulations.

We are authorized by our Articles of Incorporation to issue 490,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.10 per share, of which 418,216,437 shares were issued and outstanding as of April 30, 2012. The common stock currently outstanding is, and the common stock offered pursuant to this prospectus will be, fully paid and non-assessable.

We are also authorized by our Articles of Incorporation to issue 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$100 per share, of which none are currently issued and outstanding. Our Articles of Incorporation give our board of directors authority to issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more classes or series and to fix the designations, powers, preferences, limitations and relative rights of any series of preferred stock that we choose to issue, including dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting each such series. Such preferred stock could be issued with terms that could delay, defer or prevent a change of control of FirstEnergy. Prior to the issuance of a new series of preferred stock, we will amend our Articles of Incorporation, designating the stock of that series and the terms of that series. We will describe the terms of the preferred stock in the prospectus supplement for such offering and will file a copy of the charter amendment establishing the terms of the preferred stock with the SEC.

Dividend Rights

Subject only to any prior rights and preferences of any shares of our preferred stock that may in the future be issued and outstanding, the holders of the common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors out of legally available funds. There can be no assurance that funds will be legally available to pay dividends at any given time or that, if funds are available, the board of directors will declare a dividend.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of our dissolution or liquidation, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to receive, pro rata, after the prior rights of the holders of any issued and outstanding shares of our preferred stock have been satisfied, all of our assets that remain available for distribution after payment in full of all of our liabilities.

Voting Rights

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote on each matter submitted for their vote at any meeting of our shareholders for each share of common stock held as of the record date for the meeting. Under our Articles of Incorporation, the voting rights, if any, of our preferred stock may differ from the voting rights of our common stock. The holders of our common stock are not entitled to cumulate their votes for the election of directors.

Table of Contents

Approval of at least 80% of the voting power of our outstanding shares must be obtained in order to amend or repeal, or adopt any provision inconsistent with, the provisions of our Articles of Incorporation dealing with:

the right of the board of directors to establish the terms of unissued shares or to authorize our acquisition of our outstanding shares;

the absence of cumulative voting and preemptive rights; or

the requirement that at least 80% of the voting power of our outstanding shares must approve the foregoing.

In addition, the approval of at least 80% of the voting power of our outstanding shares must be obtained to amend or repeal the provisions of our Code of Regulations dealing with:

the time and place of shareholders' meetings, the manner in which special meetings of shareholders are called or the way business is conducted at such meetings;

the number, election and terms of directors, the manner of filling vacancies on the board of directors, the removal of directors or the manner in which directors are nominated;

the indemnification of officers, directors, employees or agents; or

the requirement that at least 80% of the voting power of our outstanding shares must approve the foregoing.

Adoption of amendments to our Articles of Incorporation (other than those requiring 80% approval as specified above), adoption of a plan of merger, consolidation or reorganization, authorization of a sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets not made in the usual and regular course of its business or adoption of a resolution of dissolution, and any other matter which would otherwise require a two-thirds approving vote, require the approval of two-thirds of the voting power of our outstanding shares, unless our board of directors provides otherwise by resolution, in which case, these matters will require the approval of a majority of the voting power of our outstanding shares and the approval of a majority of the voting power of any shares entitled to vote as a class.

Ohio Law Anti-takeover Provisions

Chapter 1704 of the Ohio General Corporation Law applies to a broad range of business combinations between an Ohio corporation and an interested shareholder. The Ohio law definition of "business combination" includes mergers, consolidations, combinations or majority share acquisitions. An "interested shareholder" is defined as a shareholder who, directly or indirectly, exercises or directs the exercise of 10% or more of the voting power of the corporation in the election of directors.

Chapter 1704 restricts corporations from engaging in business combinations with interested shareholders, unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, for a period of three years following the date on which the shareholder became an interested shareholder, unless the directors of the corporation have approved the business combination or the interested shareholder's acquisition of shares of the corporation prior to the date the shareholder became an interested shareholder. After the initial three-year moratorium, Chapter 1704 prohibits such transactions absent approval by the directors of the interested shareholder's acquisition of shares of the corporation prior to the date that the shareholder became an interested shareholder, approval by disinterested shareholders of the corporation or the transaction meeting certain statutorily defined fair price provisions.

Under Section 1701.831 of the Ohio General Corporation Law, unless the articles of incorporation, the regulations adopted by the shareholders, or the regulations adopted by the directors pursuant to division (A)(1) of Section 1701.10 of the Ohio General Corporation Law provide otherwise, any control share acquisition of a corporation can only be made with the prior approval of the corporation's disinterested shareholders.

A control

6

Table of Contents

share acquisition is defined as the acquisition, directly or indirectly, by any person of shares of a corporation that, when added to all other shares of that corporation in respect of which the person may exercise or direct the exercise of voting power, would enable that person, immediately after the acquisition, directly or indirectly, alone or with others, to exercise levels of voting power of the corporation in the election of directors in any of the following ranges: at least 20% but less than 33-1/3%; at least 33-1/3% but no more than 50%; or more than 50%.

We have not opted out of the application of either Chapter 1704 or Section 1701.831.

Anti-takeover Effects

Some of the supermajority provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and Code of Regulations and the rights or the provisions of Ohio law described above, individually or collectively, may discourage, deter, delay or impede a tender offer or other attempt to acquire control of FirstEnergy even if the transaction would result in the shareholders receiving a premium for their shares over current market prices or if the shareholders otherwise believe the transaction would be in their best interests.

In addition, our Code of Regulations contains certain advance notice provisions for which shareholders must comply in order to bring business before an annual meeting of shareholders or nominate candidates for our board of directors.

Shareholders must provide us advance notice of the introduction by them of business at annual meetings of our shareholders. For a shareholder to properly bring a proposal before an annual meeting, the shareholder must follow the advance notice procedures described in our Code of Regulations. In general, the shareholder must deliver a written notice to our Corporate Secretary describing the proposal and the shareholder's interest in the proposal not less than 30 nor more than 60 calendar days prior to the annual meeting. However, in the event public announcement of the date of the annual meeting is not made at least 70 calendar days prior to the date of the annual meeting, notice by the shareholder to be timely must be so received not later than the close of business on the 10th calendar day following the day on which public announcement is first made of the date of the annual meeting.

Shareholders can nominate candidates for our board of directors. However, a shareholder must follow the advance notice procedures described in Regulation 14(c) of our Code of Regulations. In general, a shareholder must submit a written notice of the nomination which includes the information required by our Code of Regulations to our Corporate Secretary not less than 30 nor more than 60 calendar days prior to the annual meeting of shareholders. However, in the event public announcement of the date of the annual meeting is not made at least 70 calendar days prior to the date of the annual meeting, notice by the shareholder to be timely must be so received not later than the close of business on the 10th calendar day following the day on which public announcement is first made of the date of the annual meeting.

No Preemptive or Conversion Rights

Holders of our common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights and are not subject to further calls or assessments by us. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock.

Listing

Shares of our common stock are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol FE.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, P.O. Box 2016, New York, New York, 10272-2016.

Table of Contents

Dividend Information

Dividends declared in 2011 were \$2.20 per share, which includes dividends of \$0.55 per share paid in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2011 and in the first quarter of 2012. Dividends declared in 2010 were \$2.20 per share, which included dividends of \$0.55 per share paid in the second, third and fourth quarter of 2010 and in the first quarter of 2011. Dividends on our common stock are paid as declared by our board of directors and are typically paid on the first day of March, June, September and December. Future dividends will depend on our future earnings and the ability of our regulated subsidiaries to pay cash dividends to us which are subject to certain regulatory limitations and also subject to charter and indenture limitations for some of those subsidiaries that may, in general, restrict the amount of retained earnings available for these dividends. These limitations, however, do not currently materially restrict payment of these dividends.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities that we may offer from time to time by this prospectus will be our senior unsecured debt securities and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The debt securities will be issued under an indenture, dated as of November 15, 2001, between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee. The indenture gives us broad authority to set the particular terms of each series of debt securities, including the right to modify certain of the terms contained in the indenture. The particular terms of a series of debt securities and the extent, if any, to which such particular terms modify the terms of the indenture or otherwise vary from the terms and provisions set forth below will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those debt securities.

The indenture contains the full text of the matters described in this section. Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities or the indenture. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to all the provisions of the indenture, including definitions of terms used in the indenture. You should read the indenture incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We also include references in parentheses to certain sections of the indenture. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of the indenture in this prospectus or in a prospectus supplement, these sections or defined terms are incorporated by reference herein or in the prospectus supplement. This summary also is subject to and qualified by reference to the description of the particular terms of the debt securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement or supplements.

If applicable, the prospectus supplement relating to an issue of debt securities will describe any special United States federal income tax considerations relevant to those debt securities.

There is no requirement under the indenture that future issues of our debt securities be issued under the indenture. We will be free to use other indentures or documentation, containing provisions different from those included in the indenture or applicable to one or more issues of debt securities, in connection with future issues of other debt securities. The provisions of any such other indentures or documentation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

General

The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that we may issue under the indenture. The indenture provides that the debt securities may be issued in one or more series and may be convertible or exchangeable. The debt securities may be issued at various times and may have differing maturity dates and may bear interest at differing rates. We need not issue all debt securities of one series at the same time and, unless otherwise provided, we may reopen a series, without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of that series, for issuances of additional debt securities of that series. Any convertible debt securities that we may issue will be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other securities of ours or of a third party. Conversion may be mandatory or at your option and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

Table of Contents

Prior to the issuance of each series of debt securities, the terms of the particular securities will be specified in a supplemental indenture, a board resolution or in one or more officers' certificates authorized pursuant to a board resolution. We refer you to the applicable prospectus supplement for a description of the following terms of the series of debt securities:

title of the debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the person to whom any interest on the debt securities shall be payable, if other than the person in whose name the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for that interest;

the date or dates on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable or how the date or dates will be determined;

the rate or rates at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, or how the rate or rates will be determined and the date or dates from which interest will accrue;

the dates on which interest will be payable;

the record dates for payments of interest;

the place or places, if any, in addition to the office of the trustee, where the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities will be payable;

the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, and the terms and conditions upon which, the debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

any sinking fund or other provisions or options held by holders of the debt securities that would obligate us to purchase or redeem the debt securities;

the percentage, if less than 100%, of the principal amount of the debt securities that will be payable if the maturity of the debt securities is accelerated;

whether the debt securities will be issued in book-entry form, represented by one or more global securities certificates deposited with, or on behalf of, a securities depository and registered in the name of the depository or its nominee, and if so, the identity of the depository;

any changes or additions to the events of default under the indenture or changes or additions to our covenants under the indenture;

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

the terms, if any, pursuant to which the debt securities of such series, or any tranche thereof, may be converted into or exchanged for shares of capital stock or other securities of FirstEnergy or any other person;

any collateral security, assurance or guarantee for the debt securities; and

any other specific terms applicable to the debt securities.

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be denominated in United States currency in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000.

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, there are no provisions in the indenture or the debt securities that require us to redeem, or permit the holders to cause a redemption of, the debt securities or that otherwise protect the holders in the event that we incur substantial additional indebtedness, whether or not in connection with a change in control of our company.

Security and Ranking

The debt securities will be our senior unsecured debt securities and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. As of March 31, 2012, not including the indebtedness of our subsidiaries, we

Table of Contents

had approximately \$2.7 billion of senior indebtedness outstanding consisting of our senior notes and obligations under bank credit facilities, but excluding guarantees. None of such indebtedness is secured. We have no subordinated indebtedness or preferred securities outstanding.

We conduct our operations primarily through our subsidiaries and substantially all of our consolidated assets are held by our subsidiaries. Accordingly, our cash flow and our ability to meet our obligations under the debt securities are largely dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and the distribution or other payment of these earnings to us in the form of dividends. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to pay any amounts due on our debt securities or to make any funds available for payment of amounts due on our debt securities.

Because we are a holding company, our obligations under the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries. Therefore, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including the rights of the holders of our debt securities, to participate in the liquidation of assets of any subsidiary will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors. To the extent that we may be a creditor with recognized claims against any of our subsidiaries, our claims would still be effectively subordinated to any security interest in, or mortgages or other liens on, the assets of the subsidiary and would be subordinated to any indebtedness, other liabilities, and preferred securities, of the subsidiary, senior to that held by us. As of March 31, 2012, our subsidiaries had approximately \$15.3 billion of indebtedness outstanding consisting of first mortgage bonds, senior notes, promissory notes and obligations under bank credit facilities, but excluding capital lease obligations and guarantees. Our subsidiaries have no preferred securities outstanding.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, we will pay interest on our debt securities on each interest payment date by wire transfer to an account at a banking institution in the United States that is designated in writing to the trustee by the person entitled to that payment or by check mailed to the person in whose name the debt security is registered as of the close of business on the regular record date relating to the interest payment date, except that interest payable at stated maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, will be paid to the person to whom principal is paid. However, if we default in paying interest on a debt security, we may pay defaulted interest to the registered owner of the debt security as of the close of business on a special record date selected by the trustee, which will be between 10 and 15 days before the date we propose for payment of the defaulted interest, or in any other lawful manner of payment that is consistent with the requirements of any securities exchange on which the debt securities may be listed for trading, if the trustee finds it practicable (See Section 307).

Redemption

We will set forth any terms for the redemption of debt securities in a prospectus supplement. Unless we indicate differently in a prospectus supplement, and except with respect to debt securities redeemable at the option of the registered holder, debt securities will be redeemable upon notice by mail between 30 and 60 days prior to the redemption date. If less than all of the debt securities of any series or any tranche of a series are to be redeemed, the trustee will select the debt securities to be redeemed and will choose the method of random selection it deems fair and appropriate. (See Sections 301, 403 and 404.)

Debt securities will cease to bear interest on the redemption date. We will pay the redemption price and any accrued interest to the redemption date once you surrender the debt security for redemption. (See Section 405.) If only part of a debt security is redeemed, the trustee will deliver to you a new debt security of the same series for the remaining portion without charge. (See Section 406.)

We may make any redemption conditional upon the receipt by the paying agent, on or prior to the date fixed for redemption, of money sufficient to pay the redemption price. If the paying agent has not received the money by the date fixed for redemption, we will not be required to redeem the debt securities. (See Section 404.)

Table of Contents

Registration, Transfer and Exchange

The debt securities will be issued without interest coupons and in denominations that are even multiples of \$1,000, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series of any authorized denominations and of a like aggregate principal amount and tenor, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. (See Section 305.)

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or accompanied by a duly executed written instrument of transfer, at the office or agency maintained for this purpose, without service charge except for reimbursement of taxes and other governmental charges as described in the indenture. (See Section 305.)

In the event of any redemption of debt securities of any series, the trustee will not be required to exchange or register a transfer of any debt securities of the series selected, called or being called for redemption except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part. (See Section 305.)

Limitation on Liens

The indenture provides that, except as otherwise specified with respect to a particular series of debt securities, we will not pledge, mortgage, hypothecate or grant a security interest in, or permit any mortgage, pledge, security interest, or other lien upon, any capital stock of any subsidiary now or hereafter directly owned by us, to secure any indebtedness without also equally and ratably securing the outstanding debt securities of that series and all other indebtedness entitled to be so secured. (See Section 608.)

This restriction does not apply to, or prevent the creation or any extension, renewal or refunding of:

any mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance upon any capital stock created at the time we acquire it or within one year after that time to secure the purchase price for the capital stock;

any mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance upon any capital stock existing at the time we acquire it, whether or not we assume the secured obligations; or

any judgment, levy, execution, attachment or other similar lien arising in connection with court proceedings, provided that:

the execution or enforcement of the lien is effectively stayed within 30 days after entry of the corresponding judgment, or the corresponding judgment has been discharged within that 30-day period, and the claims secured by the lien are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings timely commenced and diligently prosecuted;

the payment of each lien is covered in full by insurance and the insurance company has not denied or contested coverage thereof; or

so long as each lien is adequately bonded, any appropriate and duly initiated legal proceedings for the review of the corresponding judgment, decree or order shall not have been fully terminated or the period within which these proceedings may be initiated shall not have expired. (See Section 608.)

Unless we otherwise specify in the prospectus supplement for a particular series of debt securities, we may, without securing the debt securities of that series, pledge, mortgage, hypothecate or grant a security interest in, or permit any mortgage, pledge, security interest or other lien, in addition to liens expressly permitted as described in the preceding paragraphs, upon, capital stock of any subsidiary now or hereafter owned by us to secure any indebtedness, which would otherwise be subject to the foregoing restriction, in an aggregate amount which, together with all other such indebtedness, does not exceed 10% of our consolidated net tangible assets. (See Section 608.) Our consolidated net tangible assets as

of March 31, 2012 were approximately \$34.6 billion.

Table of Contents

For purposes of this covenant, consolidated net tangible assets means the amount shown as total assets on our consolidated balance sheet, less (i) intangible assets including, without limitation, such items as goodwill, trademarks, trade names, patents, and unamortized debt expense; (ii) current liabilities; and (iii) appropriate adjustments, if any, related to minority interests. These amounts will be determined in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

The foregoing limitation does not limit in any manner:

our ability to place liens on any of our assets other than the capital stock of subsidiaries that we directly own;

our ability to cause the transfer of our assets or those of our subsidiaries, including the capital stock covered by the foregoing restrictions; or

the ability of any of our subsidiaries to place liens on any of their assets.

Consolidation, Merger, Conveyance, Sale or Transfer

We have agreed not to consolidate with or merge into any other entity or convey, sell or otherwise transfer our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any entity unless:

the successor is an entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America or any State or the District of Columbia;

the successor expressly assumes by a supplemental indenture the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all outstanding debt securities under the indenture and the performance of every covenant of the indenture that we would otherwise have to perform or observe; and

immediately after giving effect to the transactions, no event of default with respect to any series of debt securities issued under the indenture and no event which after notice or lapse of time or both would become an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities issued under the indenture, will have occurred and be continuing. (See Section 1101.)

Modification of the Indenture

Under the indenture or any supplemental indenture, our rights and the rights of the holders of debt securities may be changed with the consent of the holders representing a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by the change, voting as one class, provided that the following changes may not be made without the consent of the holders of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

change the fixed date upon which the principal of or the interest on any debt security is due and payable, or reduce the principal amount thereof or the rate of interest thereon or any premium payable upon the redemption thereof, or reduce the amount of the principal of an original issue discount security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof, or change the coin or currency (or other property) in which any debt security or any premium, if any, or the interest thereon is payable, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the date that payment is due and payable or, in the case of redemption, on or after the date fixed for such redemption;

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

reduce the stated percentage of debt securities, the consent of the holders of which is required for any modification of the indenture or for waiver by the holders of certain of their rights; or

modify certain provisions of the indenture. (See Section 1202.)

Table of Contents

An original issue discount security means any security authenticated and delivered under the indenture which provides for an amount less than the principal amount thereof to be due and payable upon the declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof.

The indenture also permits us and the trustee to amend the indenture without the consent of the holders of any debt securities for any of the following purposes:

to evidence the assumption by any permitted successor of our covenants in the indenture and in the debt securities;

to add to the covenants with which we must comply or to surrender any of our rights or powers under the indenture;

to add additional events of default;

to change, eliminate, or add any provision to the indenture; provided, however, if the change, elimination, or addition will adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities of any series, other than any series the terms of which permit such change, elimination or addition, in any material respect, the change, elimination, or addition will become effective only:

when the consent of the holders of debt securities of the series has been obtained in accordance with the indenture; or

when no debt securities of the series remain outstanding under the indenture;

to provide collateral security for all of the debt securities;

to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any other series as permitted by the indenture;

to provide for the authentication and delivery of bearer securities and coupons attached thereto;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment of a successor trustee;

to provide for the procedures required for use of a noncertificated system of registration for all or any series of debt securities;

to change any place where principal, premium, if any, and interest shall be payable, debt securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange and notices to us may be served; or

to cure any ambiguity or inconsistency or to make any other provisions with respect to matters and questions arising under the indenture; provided that such action shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities of any series in any material respect. (See Section 1201.)

Events of Default

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

An event of default with respect to any series of debt securities is defined in the indenture as being any one of the following:

failure to pay interest on the debt securities of that series for 30 days after payment is due;

failure to pay principal of or any premium on the debt securities of that series when due, whether at stated maturity or upon earlier acceleration or redemption;

failure to perform other covenants in the indenture for 90 days after we are given written notice from the trustee or the trustee receives written notice from the registered owners of at least 33% in principal amount of the debt securities of that series; however, the trustee or the trustee and the holders of such principal amount of debt securities of that series can agree to an extension of the 90-day period and such an agreement to extend will be automatically deemed to occur if we are diligently pursuing action to correct the default;

Table of Contents

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, receivership or liquidation relating to us; and

any other event of default included in the supplemental indenture or officer's certificate for that series of debt securities. (See Section 801.)

An event of default regarding a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an event of default for any other series of debt securities.

We will be required to file with the trustee annually an officer's certificate as to the absence of default in performance of all covenants in the indenture. (See Section 606.) The indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of the debt securities of any default, except in payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities or in the payment of any sinking fund installment with respect to the debt securities, if the trustee in good faith determines that it is in the interest of the holders of the debt securities to do so. (See Section 902.)

The indenture provides that, if an event of default with respect to the debt securities of any series occurs and continues, either the trustee or the holders of 33% or more in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount of all the debt securities to be due and payable immediately. However, if the event of default is applicable to all outstanding debt securities under the indenture, only the trustee or holders of at least 33% in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities of all series, voting as one class, and not the holders of any one series, may make such a declaration of acceleration.

At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to the debt securities of any series has been made and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained, the event of default giving rise to such declaration of acceleration will be considered waived, and such declaration and its consequences will be considered rescinded and annulled, if:

we have paid or deposited with the trustee a sum sufficient to pay:

all overdue interest, if any, on all debt securities of the series,

the principal of and premium, if any, on any debt securities of the series which have otherwise become due and interest, if any, that is currently due, including interest on overdue interest, if any, and

all amounts due to the trustee under the indenture; and

any other event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series has been cured or waived as provided in the indenture. There is no automatic acceleration, even in the event of our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization. (See Section 802.)

Subject to the provisions of the indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the debt securities, unless the holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. (See Section 903.)

Subject to the provision for indemnification, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series. However, if the event of default relates to more than one series of debt securities, only the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all affected series will have the right to give this direction. However, the trustee shall have the right to decline to follow any direction if the trustee shall determine that the action so directed conflicts with any law or the provisions of the indenture or if the trustee shall determine that the action would be prejudicial to holders not taking part in the direction. (See Section 812.)

Table of Contents

Satisfaction and Discharge

We will be discharged from our obligations on the debt securities of any series, or any portion of the principal amount of the debt securities of any series, if we

irrevocably deposit with the trustee sufficient cash or eligible obligations (or a combination of both) to pay the principal, or portion of principal, interest, any premium and any other sums when due on the debt securities at their maturity, stated maturity date, or redemption; and

deliver to the trustee:

a company order stating that the money and eligible obligations deposited in accordance with the indenture shall be held in trust and certain opinions of counsel and of an independent public accountant;

if such deposit shall have been made prior to the maturity of the debt securities of the series, an officer's certificate stating our intention that, upon delivery of the officer's certificate, our indebtedness in respect of those debt securities, or the portions thereof, will have been satisfied and discharged as contemplated in the indenture; and

an opinion of counsel to the effect that, as a result of a change in law or a ruling of the United States Internal Revenue Service, the holders of the debt securities of the series, or portions thereof, will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the satisfaction and discharge of our indebtedness and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts, at the same times and in the same manner as if we had not so satisfied and discharged our indebtedness.

For this purpose, eligible obligations include direct obligations of, or obligations unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States entitled to the benefit of the full faith and credit thereof and certificates, depositary receipts or other instruments which evidence a direct ownership interest in such obligations or in any specific interest or principal payments due in respect thereof and which do not contain provisions permitting their redemption or other prepayment at the option of the issuer thereof.

In the event that all of the conditions set forth above have been satisfied for any series of debt securities, or portions thereof, except that, for any reason, we have not delivered the officer's certificate and opinion described under the second bulleted item above, the holders of those debt securities will no longer be entitled to the benefits of certain of our covenants under the indenture, including the covenant described above in

Limitation on Liens. Our indebtedness under those debt securities, however, will not be deemed to have been satisfied and discharged prior to maturity, and the holders of those debt securities may continue to look to us for payment of the indebtedness represented by those debt securities. (See Section 701.)

The indenture will be deemed satisfied and discharged when no debt securities remain outstanding and when we have paid all other sums payable by us under the indenture. (See Section 702.) All moneys we pay to the trustee or any paying agent on debt securities which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after payments have become due will be paid to us or upon our order. Thereafter, the holder of those debt securities may look only to us for payment and not the trustee or any paying agent. (See Section 603.)

Resignation or Removal of Trustee

The trustee may resign at any time by giving written notice to us specifying the day upon which the resignation is to take effect. The resignation will take effect immediately upon the later of the appointment of a successor trustee and the specified day. (See Section 910.)

The trustee may be removed at any time by an instrument or concurrent instruments in writing delivered to the trustee and us and signed by the holders, or their attorneys-in-fact, representing at least a majority in principal

Table of Contents

amount of the then outstanding debt securities. In addition, under certain circumstances, we may remove the trustee upon notice to the holder of each debt security outstanding and the trustee, and appointment of a successor trustee. (See Section 910.)

Concerning the Trustee

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. is the successor trustee under the indenture. We and our affiliates maintain other banking relationships in the ordinary course of business with the trustee and its affiliates.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the law of any other jurisdiction shall be mandatorily applicable.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase our debt or equity securities, securities of third parties or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities and may be attached to, or separate from, such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The terms of any warrants to be issued and a description of the material provisions of the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement for any offering of warrants will describe the following terms of the warrants:

the title of the warrants;

the aggregate number of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies, in which the price of the warrants will be payable;

the securities or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing, purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

the price at which and the currency or currencies, in which the securities or other rights purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of such warrants issued with each such security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

Table of Contents

the procedure for exercise of the warrants and the circumstances, if any, that will cause the warrants to be automatically exercised;

the rights, if any, we have to redeem the warrants;

anti-dilution provisions of the warrants, if any;

if applicable, a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations;

the name of the warrant agent;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants. We will file a copy of the warrant and warrant agreement with the SEC each time we issue a series of warrants, and these warrants and warrant agreements will be incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. A holder of our warrants should refer to the provisions of the applicable warrant agreement and prospectus supplement for more specific information.

DESCRIPTION OF SHARE PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND SHARE PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue share purchase contracts representing contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and us to sell to the holders, shares of our common stock at a future date or dates. The price per share of common stock and the number of shares of common stock may be fixed at the time the share purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the share purchase contracts and described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The share purchase contracts may be issued separately or as a part of share purchase units consisting of a share purchase contract and either our debt securities or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities that are pledged to secure the holders' obligations to purchase our common stock under the share purchase contracts.

The share purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the share purchase units or vice versa, and those payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The share purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations in a specified manner and, in certain circumstances, we may deliver newly issued prepaid share purchase contracts, often known as prepaid securities, upon release to a holder of any collateral securing such holder's obligations under the original share purchase contract.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the material terms of any share purchase contracts or share purchase units, and, if applicable, prepaid securities. The description in the applicable prospectus supplement will not purport to be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to (a) the share purchase contracts, (b) the collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements, if applicable, relating to such share purchase contracts or share purchase units and (c) if applicable, the prepaid securities and the document pursuant to which the prepaid securities will be issued. These documents will be filed with the SEC promptly after the offering of the share purchase contracts or the share purchase units. Material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the share purchase contracts and the share purchase units will also be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Initial Offering and Sale of Securities

We may sell securities through one or more underwriters or dealers, directly to one or more purchasers, through agents, pursuant to forward contracts or through a combination of any of these sale methods, or through any other methods described in a prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement relating to the securities being offered will set forth the terms of the offering and the method of distribution, including:

the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds to us from the sale;

any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation, selling commissions, agency fees and other items constituting underwriters', dealers' or agents' compensation;

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid to dealers or agents; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

We may distribute the securities offered under this prospectus from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at prevailing market prices or at prices determined as the prospectus supplement specifies. We may sell securities through forward contracts or similar arrangements.

Securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. If we use underwriters for a sale of securities, we will enter into an underwriting agreement with the underwriters at the time of sale of those securities. Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the offered securities will be subject to certain conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the offered securities if any are purchased. The underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers. Only those underwriters identified in the prospectus supplement are deemed to be underwriters in connection with the securities offered in the prospectus supplement.

If we use dealers in a sale, unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will sell the securities to the dealers as principals. The dealers may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices that they determine at the time of resale.

We may sell the securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities covered by this prospectus will be named in a prospectus supplement relating to such securities. Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, any such agents will be acting on a best-efforts basis for the period of their appointment.

In connection with the sale of securities, underwriters, dealers or agents may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and also may receive commissions from securities purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Any underwriting or other compensation which we pay to underwriters or agents in connection with the securities offering, and any discounts, concessions or commissions which underwriters allow to dealers, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Underwriters, dealers and agents participating in the securities distribution may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions they receive and any profit they realize on the resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Underwriters, and their controlling persons, and agents may be entitled, under agreements we enter into with them, to indemnification against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Some of the underwriters, dealers or agents and some of their affiliates who participate in the securities distribution may engage in other transactions with, and perform other services for, us and our subsidiaries or affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

In order to facilitate an offering of securities, persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the offered securities. Such transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time. If any such activities will occur, they will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Sales by Selling Security Holders

Selling security holders may use this prospectus in connection with resales of securities they hold as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will identify the selling security holders, the terms of the securities and any material relationships we have with the selling security holders. Selling security holders may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act in connection with the securities they resell and any profits on the sales may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement, the selling security holders will receive all the proceeds from the sale of the securities.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered under this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Robert P. Reffner, Esq., Vice President, Legal, of our subsidiary FirstEnergy Service Company, and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, New York, New York. As of March 31, 2012, Mr. Reffner beneficially owned approximately 36,277 shares of our common stock, which includes 12,637 shares of restricted stock and 12,000 shares of unvested restricted stock units. Additional legal matters may be passed on for us, or any underwriters, dealers or agents, by counsel we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, except for any information superseded by information contained directly in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement, any subsequently filed document deemed incorporated by reference or a free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that we have previously filed with the SEC (other than information deemed furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, including Items 2.02 and 7.01 of Form 8-K). These documents contain important information about us and our finances.

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the following documents or information filed or to be filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 26, 2012 (of the two current reports filed on January 26, 2012, only the filing made under Items 2.05, 2.06 and 9.01 is incorporated herein by reference), February 8, 2012 (for disclosure contained under Items 2.05 and 2.06 only), February 21, 2012, March 20, 2012, May 11, 2012 and May 16, 2012.

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and before the termination of the offering shall also be deemed to be incorporated herein by reference. We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including our audit and compensation committee reports and performance graph or any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or certain exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request at no cost to the requester, a copy of any or all of the reports or documents that have been incorporated by reference in this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus. Requests for these reports or documents must be made to:

FirstEnergy Corp.

76 South Main Street

Akron, Ohio 44308-1890

Attention: Shareholder Services

(800) 631-8945

The incorporated reports and other documents may also be accessed at the websites mentioned under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. These reports and other information can be inspected and copied at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. This material is also available from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> or from our website at <http://www.firstenergycorp.com/ir>. Information available on our website, other than the reports we file pursuant to the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) expected to be incurred in connection with the offerings described in this registration statement.

SEC registration fee	\$	*
Legal fees and expenses	\$	**
Blue sky fees and expenses	\$	**
Accounting fees and expenses	\$	**
Rating agencies fees and expenses	\$	**
Stock exchange listing fees	\$	**
Printing fees and expenses	\$	**
Trustees fees and expenses	\$	**
Miscellaneous	\$	**
 Total	 \$	 **

* In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, the registrant is deferring payment of the registration fees associated with this registration statement. The balance of the registration fees will be paid at the time of any offering of securities under this registration statement after the applied fees have been used and therefore is not determinable.

** Because an indeterminate amount of securities is covered by this registration statement, the expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of securities are not currently determinable. The estimate of such expenses in connection with securities to be offered and sold pursuant to this registration statement will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Section 1701.13(E) of the Ohio General Corporation Law provides that an Ohio corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of that corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, trustee, officer, employee, member, manager, or agent of another entity against expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and with respect to any criminal matter, if the person had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. In addition, no indemnification shall be made in respect of a claim against such person by or in the right of the corporation, if the person is adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to the corporation except to the extent provided in the court order. Indemnification may be made if ordered by a court or authorized in each specific case by the directors of the indemnifying corporation acting at a meeting at which, for the purpose, any director who is a party to or threatened with any such action, suit or proceeding may not be counted in determining the existence of a quorum and may not vote. If, because of the foregoing limitations, the directors are unable to act in this regard, such determination may be made by written opinion of independent legal counsel other than an attorney, or a firm having associated with it an attorney, who has been retained by or who has performed services for the corporation or any person to be indemnified during the five years preceding the date of determination. Alternatively, such determination may be made by the corporation's shareholders.

Table of Contents

Section 1701.13(E) of the Ohio General Corporation Law provides that the indemnification thereby permitted shall not be exclusive of any other rights that directors, officers or employees may have, including rights under insurance purchased by the corporation. Further, a right to indemnification or to advancement of expenses arising under a provision of the articles or the regulations of a corporation may not be eliminated or impaired by an amendment to that provision after the occurrence of the act or omission that becomes the subject of the civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative action, suit, or proceeding for which the indemnification or advancement of expenses is sought, unless the provision in effect at the time of that act or omission explicitly authorizes that elimination or impairment after the act or omission has occurred.

Regulation 31 of FirstEnergy's Code of Regulations provides as follows:

The Corporation shall indemnify, to the full extent then permitted by law, any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he is or was a member of the Board of Directors or an officer, employee or agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, trustee, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise. The Corporation shall pay, to the full extent then required by law, expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by a member of the Board of Directors in defending any such action, suit or proceeding as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition thereof, and may pay, in the same manner and to the full extent then permitted by law, such expenses incurred by any other person. The indemnification and payment of expenses provided hereby shall not be exclusive of, and shall be in addition to, any other rights granted to those seeking indemnification under any law, the Articles of Incorporation, any agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested members of the Board of Directors, or otherwise, both as to action in official capacities and as to action in another capacity while he or she is a member of the Board of Directors, or an officer, employee or agent of the Corporation, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a member of the Board of Directors, trustee, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

Regulation 32 of FirstEnergy's Code of Regulations provides as follows:

The Corporation may, to the full extent then permitted by law and authorized by the Board of Directors, purchase and maintain insurance or furnish similar protection, including but not limited to trust funds, letters of credit or self-insurance, on behalf of or for any persons described in Regulation 31 against any liability asserted against and incurred by any such person in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability. Insurance may be purchased from or maintained with a person in which the Corporation has a financial interest.

Indemnification Agreements. The Registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with its directors, the forms of which are incorporated by reference to Exhibits 10.1 and 10.2 of FirstEnergy's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009. Each indemnification agreement provides, among other things, that the Registrant will, subject to the agreement terms, indemnify a director if, by reason of the individual's status as a director, the person incurs losses, liabilities, judgments, fines, penalties, or amounts paid in settlement in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed proceeding, whether of a civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative nature. In addition, each indemnification agreement provides for the advancement of expenses incurred by a director, subject to certain exceptions, in connection with proceedings covered by the indemnification agreement. As a director and officer, Mr. Alexander's agreement addresses indemnity in both roles.

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. The Registrant maintains and pays the premium on contracts insuring it (with certain exclusions) against any liability to directors and officers it may incur under the above indemnity provisions and insuring each of its directors and officers (with certain exclusions) against liability and expense, including legal fees, which he or she may incur by reason of his or her relationship to it.

Table of Contents

Item 16. Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description
1(a)*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Equity Securities)
1(b)*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Debt Securities)
1(c)*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Warrants)
1(d)*	Form of Sales Agency Agreement relating to common stock
4(a)**	Amended Articles of Incorporation of FirstEnergy Corp. (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form 10-K filed February 19, 2010, Exhibit 3-1, File No. 333-21011)
4(b)**	Amendment to the Amended Articles of Incorporation of FirstEnergy Corp. dated as of February 25, 2011 (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form 8-K filed February 25, 2011, Exhibit 3.1, File No. 333-21011)
4(c)**	FirstEnergy Corp. Amended Code of Regulations (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form 10-K filed February 25, 2009, Exhibit 3.1, File No. 333-21011)
4(d)**	Amendment to the FirstEnergy Corp. Amended Code of Regulations (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Definitive Proxy Statement filed April 1, 2011, Appendix 1, File No. 333-21011)
4(e)**	Form of Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form S-3 filed November 24, 1997, Exhibit 4(c), File No. 333-40063)
4(f)**	Form of Unsecured Debt Securities (included and incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4(g))
4(g)**	Indenture, dated as of November 15, 2001, between FirstEnergy Corp. and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Successor Trustee (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form S-3 filed September 21, 2001, Exhibit 4(a), File No. 333-69856)
4(h)	Agreement of Resignation, Appointment and Acceptance Among The Bank of New York Mellon, as Resigning Trustee, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Successor Trustee and FirstEnergy Corp., dated May 16, 2012
4(i)*	Form of Purchase Contract Agreement
4(j)*	Form of Certificate of Designation for Preferred Stock
4(k)*	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate
4(l)*	Form of Equity Warrant Agreement
4(m)*	Form of Equity Warrant
4(n)*	Form of Debt Warrant Agreement
4(o)*	Form of Debt Warrant
5(a)	Opinion of Robert P. Reffner, Esq., Vice President, Legal, FirstEnergy Service Company
5(b)	Opinion of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, New York, New York
12(a)	Statement of computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges
23(a)	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
23(b)	Consent of Robert P. Reffner, Esq. Vice President, Legal, FirstEnergy Service Company (Included in Exhibit 5(a))
23(c)	Consent of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, New York, New York (included in Exhibit 5(b))
24(a)	Power of Attorney (included on signature page)
25(a)	Form of T-1 Statement of Eligibility, dated as of May 18, 2012, between First Energy Corp. and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Successor Trustee

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a document to be incorporated by reference herein in connection with the issuance of securities.

** Incorporated by reference herein as indicated.

Table of Contents

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
 - (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and
 - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;
provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by such registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.
- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
 - (i) Each prospectus filed by a registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
 - (ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of an issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. *Provided, however,* that no statement

Edgar Filing: FIRSTENERGY CORP - Form S-3ASR

made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a

II-4

Table of Contents

purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of such registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, each undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of an undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, such undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of an undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
 - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of an undersigned registrant or used or referred to by an undersigned registrant;
 - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about an undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of an undersigned registrant; and
 - (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by an undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- (6) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of such registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (7) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to supplement the prospectus, after the expiration of the subscription period, to set forth the results of the subscription offer, the transactions by the underwriters during the subscription period, the amount of unsubscribed securities to be purchased by the underwriters, and the terms of any subsequent reoffering thereof. If any public offering by the underwriters is to be made on terms differing from those set forth on the cover page of the prospectus, a post-effective amendment will be filed to set forth the terms of such offering.
- (8) To file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of any trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of each registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, each registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by a registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of a registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, that registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Akron, State of Ohio, on the 18th day of May, 2012.

FIRSTENERGY CORP.

By: /s/ Anthony J. Alexander
 Anthony J. Alexander
 President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, that the individuals whose signatures appear below constitute and appoint A. J. Alexander, L. L. Vespoli, R.S. Ferguson and L. F. Torres, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agents with full and several power of substitution, for him or her and his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agents or any of them, or their substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated:

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ George M. Smart George M. Smart	Chairman of the Board	May 18, 2012
/s/ Anthony J. Alexander Anthony J. Alexander	President and Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	May 18, 2012
/s/ Mark. T. Clark Mark. T. Clark	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	May 18, 2012
/s/ Harvey L. Wagner Harvey L. Wagner	Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	May 18, 2012
/s/ Paul T. Addison Paul T. Addison	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Michael J. Anderson Michael J. Anderson	Director	May 18, 2012

Table of Contents

/s/ Carol A. Cartwright Carol A. Cartwright	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ William T. Cottle William T. Cottle	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Robert B. Heisler, Jr. Robert B. Heisler, Jr.	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Julia L. Johnson Julia L. Johnson	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Ted. J. Kleisner Ted. J. Kleisner	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Donald T. Misheff Donald T. Misheff	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Ernest J. Novak, Jr. Ernest J. Novak, Jr.	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Christopher D. Pappas Christopher D. Pappas	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Catherine A. Rein Catherine A. Rein	Director	May 18, 2012
/s/ Wes M. Taylor Wes M. Taylor	Director	May 18, 2012

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
1(a)*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Equity Securities)
1(b)*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Debt Securities)
1(c)*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Warrants)
1(d)*	Form of Sales Agency Agreement relating to common stock
4(a)**	Amended Articles of Incorporation of FirstEnergy Corp. (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form 10-K filed February 19, 2010, Exhibit 3-1, File No. 333-21011)
4(b)**	Amendment to the Amended Articles of Incorporation of FirstEnergy Corp. dated as of February 25, 2011 (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form 8-K filed February 25, 2011, Exhibit 3.1, File No. 333-21011)
4(c)**	FirstEnergy Corp. Amended Code of Regulations (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form 10-K filed February 25, 2009, Exhibit 3.1, File No. 333-21011)
4(d)**	Amendment to the FirstEnergy Corp. Amended Code of Regulations (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Definitive Proxy Statement filed April 1, 2011, Appendix 1, File No. 333-21011)
4(e)**	Form of Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form S-3 filed November 24, 1997, Exhibit 4(c), File No. 333-40063)
4(f)**	Form of Unsecured Debt Securities (included and incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4(g))
4(g)**	Indenture, dated as of November 15, 2001, between FirstEnergy Corp. and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Successor Trustee (incorporated by reference to FirstEnergy's Form S-3 filed September 21, 2001, Exhibit 4(a), File No. 333-69856)
4(h)	Agreement of Resignation, Appointment and Acceptance Among The Bank of New York Mellon, as Resigning Trustee, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Successor Trustee and FirstEnergy Corp., dated May 16, 2012
4(i)*	Form of Purchase Contract Agreement
4(j)*	Form of Certificate of Designation for Preferred Stock
4(k)*	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate
4(l)*	Form of Equity Warrant Agreement
4(m)*	Form of Equity Warrant
4(n)*	Form of Debt Warrant Agreement
4(o)*	Form of Debt Warrant
5(a)	Opinion of Robert P. Reffner, Esq., Vice President, Legal, FirstEnergy Service Company
5(b)	Opinion of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, New York, New York
12(a)	Statement of computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges
23(a)	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
23(b)	Consent of Robert P. Reffner, Esq. Vice President, Legal, FirstEnergy Service Company (Included in Exhibit 5(a))
23(c)	Consent of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, New York, New York (included in Exhibit 5(b))
24(a)	Power of Attorney (included on signature page)
25(a)	Form of T-1 Statement of Eligibility, dated as of May 18, 2012, between First Energy Corp. and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Successor Trustee

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a document to be incorporated by reference herein in connection with the issuance of securities.

** Incorporated by reference herein as indicated.