



WEST VIRGINIA BUSINESS & INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 24, 2016

Legislature's Actions Result in Continued Use of Coal At First Energy Generation Facilities

Charleston, W.Va. – The West Virginia Legislature's dedication to preserving coal-fired electricity use in West Virginia resulted in today's announcement by subsidiaries of First Energy to upgrade their in-state generation facilities, creating jobs and the continued use of coal to power state homes and businesses.

"Senate President Bill Cole and House Speaker Tim Armstead should be commended for their leadership and foresight in promoting legislation to encourage the continued and increased use of coal-fired power generation in West Virginia," said Chris Hamilton, chairman of the West Virginia Business & Industry Council.

"The announcement by First Energy means there will be a continued use of coal for power generation in the state," Hamilton said. "That means jobs and a paycheck for mining families.

According to a news release by First Energy, *"Earlier this year, the West Virginia legislature authorized the PSC to approve coal-fired boiler modernization and improvement plans that meet requirements for cost-effectiveness and necessity. The new legislation encourages utilities to take proactive measures to upgrade coal-fired power plants in order to support West Virginia's coal industry while helping to ensure reliable electricity generation remains in the state."*

"The Modernization and Improvement Plan (MIP) will help Harrison and Fort Martin achieve ongoing compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) and Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). It will help Harrison and Fort Martin achieve ongoing compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) and Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) II requirements."

The West Virginia Business & Industry Council's goal is to enhance the business climate in West Virginia, and its members have been working to that end for more than three decades.

For additional information, contact Chris Hamilton at (304) 342-4153.

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