News Release **For Release: Upon Receipt**

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FIRSTENERGY AND POWERSPAN ANNOUNCE PLANS TO TEST PROMISING CO_2 REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY FOR POWER PLANTS

FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE), and Powerspan Corp., a clean energy technology company, announced plans to pilot test a promising carbon-dioxide (CO_2) removal technology beginning in late 2006. The pilot test is planned for FirstEnergy's R.E. Burger Plant in Shadyside, Ohio, where Powerspan has successfully demonstrated its patented Electro-Catalytic Oxidation (ECO®) multi-pollutant control technology.

The Powerspan CO_2 capture process is expected to be readily integrated with the ECO technology, which uses aqueous ammonia to absorb high levels of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury. ECO has undergone successful commercial demonstration testing at the Burger Plant.

"Based on the encouraging results of the current commercial demonstration of the ECO system at our Burger Plant, we're pleased to participate in the next phase of ECO testing – CO_2 capture," said Guy L. Pipitone, senior vice president of Operations Strategy & Development for FirstEnergy Solutions.

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“We welcome the opportunity to continue development of our CO_2 capture technology in cooperation with FirstEnergy at the R.E. Burger Plant,” said Frank Alix, chief executive officer of Powerspan. “As with our ECO multi-pollutant control technology, FirstEnergy is demonstrating its environmental vision and leadership by investing valuable resources in a technology that could provide an important bridge to a clean energy future.”

In May 2004, Powerspan and the Department of Energy’s (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory announced a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) to develop a cost effective CO_2 removal process for coal-based power plants. The regenerative process uses an ammonia-based solution to capture CO_2 in flue gas and prepare it for subsequent sequestration; after regeneration the ammonia solution is recycled. The scope of the three-year CRADA includes laboratory testing, pilot testing and detailed studies of the CO_2 capture process economics. The results of the pilot test at the Burger Plant will be used to confirm process design and cost estimates.

Powerspan has conducted initial laboratory testing of the subject CO_2 absorption process, which demonstrated 90 percent CO_2 removal under conditions comparable to a commercial-scale absorber. These test results confirm those previously obtained by the DOE under similar conditions. Further testing at both the DOE and Powerspan under this CRADA will be conducted to fully characterize the process capability and to optimize process efficiency.

Initial cost estimates developed by the DOE indicate that the ammonia-based process could cost less than half of the next lowest-cost CO_2 capture technology currently under investigation.

FirstEnergy is a diversified energy company headquartered in Akron, Ohio. Its subsidiaries and affiliates are involved in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, as well as energy management and other energy-related services. Its seven

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electric utility operating companies comprise the nation's fifth largest investor-owned electric system, based on 4.4 million customers served within a 36,100-square-mile area of Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Powerspan Corp., a clean-energy technology company based in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is engaged in the development and commercialization of proprietary multi-pollutant control technology for the electric power industry. FirstEnergy has a minority ownership interest in Powerspan Corp.

Forward-looking Statements: This news release includes forward-looking statements based on information currently available to management. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties. These statements typically contain, but are not limited to, the terms "anticipate," "potential," "expect," "believe," "estimate" and similar words. Actual results may differ materially due to the speed and nature of increased competition and deregulation in the electric utility industry, economic or weather conditions affecting future sales and margins, changes in markets for energy services, changing energy and commodity market prices, replacement power costs being higher than anticipated or inadequately hedged, the continued ability of our regulated utilities to collect transition and other charges, maintenance costs being higher than anticipated, legislative and regulatory changes (including revised environmental requirements), the uncertainty of the timing and amounts of the capital expenditures (including that such amounts could be higher than anticipated) or levels of emission reductions related to the settlement agreement resolving the New Source Review litigation, adverse regulatory or legal decisions and outcomes (including, but not limited to, the revocation of necessary licenses or operating permits, fines or other enforcement actions and remedies) of governmental investigations and oversight, including by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the United States Attorney's Office and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as disclosed in our Securities and Exchange Commission filings, generally, and with respect to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station outage and heightened scrutiny at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant in particular, the availability and cost of capital, the continuing availability and operation of generating units, the ability of our generating units to continue to operate at or near full capacity, our inability to accomplish or realize anticipated benefits from strategic goals, our ability to improve electric commodity margins and to experience growth in the distribution business, our ability to access the public securities and other capital markets, the outcome, cost and other effects of present and potential legal and administrative proceedings and claims related to the August 14, 2003 regional power outage, the final outcome in the proceeding related to FirstEnergy's Application for a Rate Stabilization Plan (RSP) in Ohio, including, but not limited to, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's acceptance of the September 9, 2005 proposed supplement to the RSP, the risks and other factors discussed from time to time in our Securities and Exchange Commission filings, and other similar factors. FirstEnergy expressly disclaims any current intention to update any forward-looking statements contained herein as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

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