

Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation Hearing
Brett Amheiser –Talking Points

TESTIMONY

- Good Afternoon Chairman Stein, Chairman O'Brien and Members, for the record I am Brett Amheiser, Regional Vice President for Coal Operations for Luminant, a subsidiary of Vistra Energy.
- Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about our company and coal in Ohio.
- With roots that stretch back more than 130 years, Luminant has played an integral role in the evolution, growth and progress of states in which we operate, and today we are helping power some of the world's largest electric markets. We are proud to provide reliable, affordable electricity to our consumers as we set new standards in environmental stewardship and innovation that will result in cleaner air, water and land. This mission requires thousands of dedicated employees and investment of billions of dollars in infrastructure and development.

Luminant has approximately 41,000 megawatts of generation across 12 states, powered by a diverse portfolio of natural gas, nuclear, coal, solar and energy storage facilities. Our operations generate billions of dollars of economic impact across the United States. This includes impacts through jobs, vendor contracts, capital expenditures and taxes. Generous corporate contributions multiply the benefit, while our employees remain the go-to people when the communities where they live, work, and serve need help.

Luminant's parent company, Vistra Energy, is a premier, integrated power company based in Texas, combining an innovative, customer-centric approach to retail and a focus on safe, reliable, and efficient power generation.

- In Ohio we have approximately 5,132 MW generating capacity with four gas, two coal and two oil-fueled plants spread across the state. We employ almost 400 employees across the state and supply retail electricity to 316,000 customers. Additionally, we contributed over \$27M dollars in property tax to Ohio communities in 2018.
- Our family of companies is proud to support the communities where our employees and customers live, work, and grow. We take pride in being a good neighbor, and strengthening the places where we have customers, where our valued employees live, and where we call home. We provide tens of thousands of dollars and volunteer hours to numerous nonprofit organizations and worthwhile projects across the state, including:
 - American Red Cross of Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Region
 - Cincinnati Parks Foundation
 - Cincinnati Childrens' Hospital Medical Center
 - Freestore Foodbank
- As the Regional VP for Coal Operations, I am acutely aware of the challenges associated with low natural gas prices, not only in Ohio, but across the country. Luminant has worked extremely hard to adjust and make sure our plants are running as safely and efficiently as possible.
- In response to the market challenges, we launched our Operations Performance Initiative, referred to as OPI. OPI is an exhaustive effort to identify and capture opportunities across all aspects of our operating business. It is led by our employees, Operations Excellence group and

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external consultants. We reevaluate everything including revenue, fuel, operation and maintenance expenditures, capital expenditures and inventory.

- Through our OPI efforts at the Miami Fort and Zimmer coal plants, located near Cincinnati, we've reduced downtime due to maintenance issues, improved the overall thermal efficiency of the plants (heat rate) and increased the speed that our units respond to the market (ramp rate).
- Comanche Peak, our nuclear power plant in Texas, reduced costs significantly to become the lowest cost nuclear plant in the country.
- These improvements were achieved in part by empowering employees to suggest better ways of doing things and rewarding them for their ideas. There was no incentive under the regulatory model to put in the hard work to become more efficient.
- We do absolutely everything we can to keep our plants economically viable. There have been a few plants that far outlived their expected useful life, were no longer economically viable and had to be closed. In none of those cases did Luminant ask for any sort of subsidy or bailout. We firmly believe in the competitive market and our employees work extremely hard every day to ensure our plants are the safest and most efficient in the country.
- Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.