



Ohio House Finance Committee
Wednesday, April 2, 2025
9:00am ET

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 96 – Ohio EPA Title V Fees

Desiree Loveless
Director, Environmental Compliance & Policy
Vistra Corp.

Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the Ohio House Finance Committee:

My name is Desiree Loveless and I am the Director of Environmental Compliance and Policy for Vistra Corp.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the proposed Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) air permit fee increase in House Bill 96 (HB 96). The fee increase is a necessary update to ensure that the state of Ohio can continue to comply with its obligations under the Clean Air Act.

Vistra is a leading Fortune 500 integrated retail electricity and power generation company that provides essential power resources to customers, businesses, and communities from California to Maine. Vistra is the largest competitive power generator in the U.S., with a capacity of approximately 41,000 megawatts, or enough to power 20 million homes, operating in all the major competitive wholesale markets in the country. Vistra is a combination of two words – Vision and Tradition – we are rooted in the tradition of providing reliable power to our customers. The electricity space has been changing rapidly, and so too has our company, with a recent example of acquiring three nuclear sites – two here in Ohio and one in Pennsylvania through our acquisition of Energy Harbor.

Specifically, here in Ohio, prior to this acquisition, we were already the largest generator of power in the state. With the addition of the Perry and Davis-Besse nuclear plants, we have more than 5,500 MW of capacity across our 7 facilities, which include nuclear, natural gas, and coal. We employ 1,500 Ohioans, have 3 regional offices in Akron, Columbus, and Cincinnati, and an active, growing retail book of business in the Buckeye state where we serve more than 1.5 million customers.

It is important that the agency has the necessary funding to serve the public and support Ohio companies. The current proposal fairly assesses fees commensurate to burden on agency resources. The agency has been a steward of these funds over many years to prevent having to request a fee increase since the reauthorization of the program in 1990. The air permit program currently operates under an emissions-based fee structure to incentivize permit holders to reduce emissions and therefore fees. Since the inception of the program, statewide air emissions have greatly reduced resulting in improved air quality for Ohioans. A consequence of these reduced emissions is a significant reduction in DAPC annual revenues.

We appreciate the partnership with the Ohio EPA and support the continued stewardship of the Division of Air Pollution Control.

Please feel free to reach out to me or Vistra Government Affairs with any questions.

Sincerely,

Desiree Loveless

Director, Environmental Compliance & Policy

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