

November 18, 2024

Mr. Mark Takahashi
Chair of the PJM Board of Managers
PJM Interconnection LLC
2750 Monroe Blvd.
Audubon, PA 19403

Mr. Manu Asthana
President and CEO
PJM Interconnection LLC
2750 Monroe Blvd.
Audubon, PA 19403

Dear Mr. Takahashi and Mr. Asthana,

I write in appreciation and support of PJM’s efforts to ensure that reliable generation is brought online as quickly as possible to meet growing energy demands in Ohio and across the region. Rapid economic growth, caused largely by an increase in data processing needs and the nation’s move to onshore manufacturing operations, is at great risk of colliding with a tightening energy supply due to the retirement of legacy generation facilities and replacement generation that does not have the operating characteristics to meet 24/7 energy demands.

PJM highlighted the challenges associated with maintaining electric reliability amid a changing grid in its “Energy Transition in PJM” series in early 2023. Nearly two years of ongoing analysis has not altered broad consensus among state and federal regulators and myriad other stakeholders on the need to build new generation facilities across the PJM region. Further, this new generation must include dispatchable (“callable”) resources that can support grid operations and reliably meet “around the clock” demand.

One primary roadblock to building new generation is PJM’s lengthy and backlogged process for interconnection to the grid. For that reason, I appreciate PJM’s newly proposed Reliability Resource Initiative (RRI) to identify and target shovel-ready projects not currently in the interconnection queue that could contribute much needed additional capacity in the near term. Ohio’s natural gas assets are well positioned to assist in addressing the current and future

Commissioners

Daniel R. Conway
Dennis P. Deters
Lawrence K. Friedeman
John D. Williams

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capacity needs of the region, and we stand ready to assist in determining how those assets could be applied to the RRI.

It is imperative that PJM establish efficient interconnection processes to meet the unprecedented challenges of our time. In addition to the RRI, other efforts such as interconnection queue reform and streamlining interconnection transfers from retiring resources must continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenifer French". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jenifer French
Chair

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