

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT CO

Form 424B3

October 01, 2004

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Registration No. 333-119040

PROSPECTUS

Jersey Central Power & Light Company

Offer To Exchange

\$300,000,000

5.625% Exchange Senior Notes
due 2016

for any and all

5.625% Senior Notes
due 2016

We are offering to exchange up to \$300,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of our registered 5.625% Exchange Senior Notes due 2016, which we refer to as the Exchange Notes, for \$300,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of our outstanding unregistered 5.625% Senior Notes due 2016, which we refer to as the Original Notes. The terms of the Exchange Notes are identical in all material respects to the terms of the Original Notes, except that the Exchange Notes have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, and, therefore, the terms relating to transfer restrictions, registration rights and additional interest applicable to the Original Notes are not applicable to the Exchange Notes, and the Exchange Notes will bear different CUSIP numbers.

This exchange offer will expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on November 1, 2004, unless extended.

All Original Notes that are validly tendered, and not validly withdrawn, will be exchanged. You should carefully review the procedures for tendering the Original Notes beginning on page 13 of this prospectus.

Like the Original Notes, the Exchange Notes will initially be secured by a like amount of our senior note mortgage bonds. The senior note mortgage bonds securing the Exchange Notes (and any Original Notes not exchanged for Exchange Notes (the Remaining Original Notes)) may be released in certain circumstances and subject to certain conditions.

You may validly withdraw tenders of Original Notes at any time before the expiration of this exchange offer.

If you fail to tender your Original Notes, you will continue to hold unregistered, restricted securities, and your ability to transfer them could be adversely affected.

The exchange of Original Notes for Exchange Notes will not be a taxable event for United States federal income tax purposes.

Original Notes may be exchanged for Exchange Notes only in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof.

We will not receive any proceeds from this exchange offer.

No public market currently exists for the Exchange Notes. We do not intend to apply for listing of the Exchange Notes on any national securities exchange or to arrange for the Exchange Notes to be quoted on any automated quotation system, and, therefore, an active public market is not anticipated.

Each broker-dealer that receives Exchange Notes for its own account in this exchange offer must acknowledge that it will deliver a prospectus in connection with any resale of those Exchange Notes. The related letter of transmittal that is delivered with this prospectus states

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that by so acknowledging and by delivering a prospectus, a broker-dealer will not be deemed to admit that it is an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933. This prospectus, as it may be amended or supplemented from time to time, may be used by a broker-dealer in connection with resales of Exchange Notes received in exchange for Original Notes the broker-dealer acquired as a result of market-making activities or other trading activities. We have agreed that we will make this prospectus available to any broker-dealer for use in connection with any such resale for a period ending 90 days after the consummation of this exchange offer or, if sooner, the date on which those Exchange Notes held by the broker-dealer have been sold (unless such period is extended pursuant to the registration rights agreement). See Plan of Distribution beginning on page 42 of this prospectus.

Each holder of Original Notes wishing to accept this exchange offer must effect a tender of Original Notes by book-entry transfer into the exchange agent's account at The Depository Trust Company (DTC). All deliveries are at the risk of the holder. You can find detailed instructions concerning delivery in the section of this prospectus entitled The Exchange Offer beginning on page 13.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 8 for a discussion of factors that you should consider in connection with an investment in Exchange Notes.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

YOU SHOULD READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL AND RELATED DOCUMENTS AND ANY AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING YOUR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXCHANGE OFFER.

The date of this prospectus is October 1, 2004.

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This prospectus incorporates by reference important business and financial information about us that is not included in or delivered with this document. Copies of this information are available without charge to any person to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request. Written requests should be sent to Jersey Central Power & Light Company, c/o FirstEnergy Corp., 76 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308-1890, Attention: Investor Services. Oral requests should be made by telephoning (800) 736-3402. To obtain timely delivery, you must request the information no later than October 25, 2004, which is five business days before the expiration date of this exchange offer.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You should rely only on the information we have provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements contained in this prospectus and incorporated by reference into this prospectus are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act) and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). These statements include declarations regarding our or our management's intents, beliefs and current expectations. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, will, should, expects, plans, anticipates, believes, estimates, predicts, potential or continue or the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual results could differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve estimates, assumptions, known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our or our industry's actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements contained and incorporated by reference herein are qualified in their entirety by reference to the following important factors, which are difficult to predict, contain uncertainties,

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are beyond our control and may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements:

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;

maintenance costs being higher than anticipated;

legislative and regulatory changes (including revised environmental requirements);

adverse regulatory or legal decisions and the outcome of governmental investigations;

availability and cost of capital;

the continuing availability and operation of generating units;

the inability to accomplish or realize anticipated benefits of strategic goals;

the ability to improve electric commodity margins and to experience growth in the distribution business;

the ability to access the public securities markets;

further investigation into the causes of the August 14, 2003 regional power outage and the outcome, cost and other effects of present and potential legal and administrative proceedings and claims related to that outage; and

the risks and other factors discussed from time to time in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, as amended, and in this prospectus under the heading "RISK FACTORS"; and

other similar factors.

Any forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statements are made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of such factors, nor can we assess the impact of any such factor on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. The foregoing review of factors should not be construed as exhaustive.

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus. This summary is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you should consider prior to making a decision to exchange Original Notes for Exchange Notes. You should read the entire prospectus carefully, including the Risk Factors section beginning on page 8 of this prospectus and the financial statements and notes to these statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus. In this prospectus, unless the context indicates otherwise, the words Jersey Central, the company, we, our, ours and us refer to Jersey Central Power & Light Company.

Jersey Central Power & Light Company

We are a wholly-owned electric utility operating subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., or FirstEnergy. FirstEnergy is a holding company registered under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. We engage in the transmission, distribution and sale of electric energy in an area of approximately 3,300 square miles in northern, western and east central New Jersey. We also engage in the sale, purchase and interchange of electric energy with other electric companies. The area we serve has a population of approximately 2.5 million.

Our principal executive offices are located at 76 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308-1890. Our telephone number is (800) 736-3402.

The Exchange Offer

Issuance of the Original Notes	<p>We issued and sold \$300,000,000 of 5.625% Senior Notes on April 23, 2004 in a transaction not requiring registration under the Securities Act.</p> <p>The initial purchasers of the Original Notes sold beneficial interests in the Original Notes to qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A of the Securities Act and to non-US persons pursuant to Regulation S of the Securities Act. All of the Original Notes originally issued by us on April 23, 2004 are currently outstanding.</p>
The Exchange Offer; Exchange Notes	<p>We are offering to exchange the Exchange Notes for the Original Notes to satisfy our obligations under the registration rights agreement we entered into when the Original Notes were issued and sold. The Exchange Notes will have been registered under the Securities Act and are of a like principal amount and like tenor of the Original Notes. Noteholders that validly tender their Original Notes and do not validly withdraw such tender before the expiration date will have the benefit of this exchange offer. Original Notes may be exchanged for Exchange Notes only in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof. In order to exchange your Original Notes, you must validly tender them before the expiration date of this exchange offer.</p>
Expiration Date	<p>5:00 p.m., New York City time, on November 1, 2004, unless extended by us in our sole discretion. If extended, the term expiration date as used in this prospectus will mean the latest date and time to which this exchange offer is extended. We will accept for exchange any and all Original Notes which are validly tendered and not validly withdrawn before 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date.</p>

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Conditions to the Exchange Offer	This exchange offer is subject to certain customary conditions, some of which we may waive. See The Exchange Offer Conditions to the Exchange Offer.
Consequences of Failure to Exchange Your Original Notes	<p>If you fail to validly tender your Original Notes for Exchange Notes in accordance with the terms of this exchange offer, or withdraw your tender, your Original Notes will continue to be subject to transfer restrictions. If you are eligible to participate in this exchange offer and you fail to validly tender your Original Notes, or withdraw your tender, you will not have any further rights under the registration rights agreement, including the right to require us to register your Original Notes, but your Original Notes will remain outstanding and continue to accrue interest. See The Exchange Offer Consequences of Failure to Exchange.</p> <p>Because we anticipate that most holders of Original Notes will elect to exchange their Original Notes, we expect that the liquidity of the markets, if any, for any Original Notes remaining after the completion of this exchange offer will be substantially limited.</p>
Procedures for Tendering Original Notes	<p>If you are a holder of Original Notes who wishes to accept this exchange offer you must:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">complete, sign and date the accompanying letter of transmittal in accordance with the instructions contained in the letter of transmittal; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">mail or otherwise deliver the letter of transmittal together with the Original Notes and any other required documentation to the exchange agent at the address set forth in this prospectus.</p> <p>However, if you hold Original Notes through The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, and wish to accept this exchange offer, you must arrange for DTC to transmit required information to the exchange agent in connection with a book-entry transfer. See The Exchange Offer Procedures for Tendering Original Notes.</p> <p>By tendering your Original Notes in either of these manners, you will be making a number of important representations to us, as described under The Exchange Offer Resale of Exchange Notes, including that you do not intend to participate in a distribution of the Exchange Notes.</p> <p>Please do not send your letter of transmittal or certificates representing your Original Notes to us. Those documents should be sent only to the exchange agent. Questions regarding how to tender Original Notes and requests for information should be directed to the exchange agent. See The Exchange Offer Exchange Agent.</p>
Guaranteed Delivery Procedures	If you wish to tender your Original Notes and your Original Notes are not immediately available or you cannot deliver your Original Notes, the letter of transmittal or any other documents required by the letter of transmittal to be delivered to the exchange agent, or

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you are unable to comply with the procedures for book-entry transfer prior to the expiration of this exchange offer, you must tender your Original Notes according to the guaranteed delivery procedures set forth in The Exchange Offer Procedures for Tendering Original Notes Guaranteed Delivery in order to participate in this exchange offer.

Special Procedures for Beneficial Owners

If your Original Notes are registered in the name of a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee and you wish to tender your Original Notes, we urge you to contact that person promptly and instruct the registered holder to tender your Original Notes on your behalf.

If your Original Notes are registered in the name of a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee and you wish to tender your Original Notes on your own behalf, you must, prior to completing and executing the letter of transmittal and delivering your Original Notes to the exchange agent, either make appropriate arrangements to register ownership of the Original Notes in your name or obtain a properly completed note power from the registered holder. Please note that the transfer of registered ownership may take considerable time.

Withdrawal Rights

You may validly withdraw the tender of your Original Notes at any time prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date. See The Exchange Offer Withdrawal Rights.

Acceptance of Original Notes and Delivery of Exchange Notes

We will accept for exchange any and all Original Notes which are validly tendered and not withdrawn in accordance with the terms and conditions of this exchange offer prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date. The Exchange Notes issued pursuant to this exchange offer will be delivered on the earliest practicable date following the exchange date. See The Exchange Offer Terms of the Exchange Offer.

Resales of Exchange Notes

We believe that you will be able to offer for resale, resell or otherwise transfer Exchange Notes issued in this exchange offer without compliance with the registration and prospectus delivery provisions of the Securities Act, provided that:

You are acquiring the Exchange Notes in the ordinary course of your business;

You have no arrangement or understanding with any person to participate in a distribution of the Exchange Notes;

You are not an affiliate of ours; and

If you are not a broker-dealer, you are not engaged in, and do not intend to engage in, the distribution of Exchange Notes.

In addition, each participating broker-dealer that receives Exchange Notes for its own account in exchange for Original Notes which were acquired by the broker-dealer as a result of market-making or other trading activities must acknowledge that it will

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deliver a prospectus meeting the requirements of the Securities Act in connection with any resale of the Exchange Notes. A broker-dealer may use this prospectus for an offer to sell, resell or otherwise transfer Exchange Notes. See Plan of Distribution.

Our belief is based on interpretations by the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) set forth in several no-action letters issued to third parties. The SEC has not considered this exchange offer in the context of a no-action letter, and we cannot be sure that the staff of the SEC would make a similar determination with respect to this exchange offer. See The Exchange Offer Resale of Exchange Notes.

If our belief is not accurate and you transfer an Exchange Note without delivering a prospectus meeting the requirements of the Securities Act or without an exemption from those requirements, you may incur liability under the Securities Act. We do not and will not assume, or indemnify you against, such liability.

Accrued Interest on the Exchange Notes and Original Notes Interest on each Exchange Note will accrue from the last date on which interest was paid on the Original Note surrendered in this exchange offer, or if no interest has been paid, from the original date of issuance of the Original Notes.

Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences The exchange of Original Notes for Exchange Notes pursuant to this exchange offer will not be a taxable event for United States federal income tax purposes. See Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences.

Use of Proceeds We will not receive any cash proceeds from the issuance of the Exchange Notes. See Use of Proceeds.

Exchange Agent The Bank of New York.

Registration Rights Agreement The registration rights agreement by and among us and the initial purchasers of the Original Notes entitles you to exchange your Original Notes for Exchange Notes with substantially identical terms. This exchange offer satisfies this right. After this exchange offer is completed, you will no longer be entitled to any exchange or registration rights with respect to your Original Notes. However, under the circumstances described in the registration rights agreement, you may require us to file a shelf registration statement under the Securities Act. See The Exchange Offer Purpose of the Exchange Offer and The Exchange Offer Consequences of Failure to Exchange.

The Exchange Notes

Securities Offered We are offering \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 5.625% Exchange Senior Notes due 2016.

General The form and terms of the Exchange Notes are identical in all material respects to the form and terms of the Original Notes, except that the Exchange Notes (i) will be registered under the Securities Act and, therefore, will not be subject to the restrictions

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on transfer applicable to the Original Notes, (ii) will bear a different CUSIP number and (iii) will not be entitled to the rights of holders of Original Notes under the registration rights agreement we entered into when the Original Notes were issued and sold. The Exchange Notes will evidence the same debt as the Original Notes and will be entitled to the benefits of the senior note indenture. See Description of the Exchange Notes.

Maturity	The Exchange Notes will mature on May 1, 2016.
Interest	Interest on the Exchange Notes will accrue at a rate of 5.625% per annum. Interest on the Exchange Notes will accrue from the last date on which interest was paid on the Original Notes surrendered in the exchange offer, or, if no interest has been paid, from the original date of issuance of the Original Notes, and will be payable semi-annually in arrears on each May 1 and November 1.
Indenture	We will issue the Exchange Notes under the indenture dated as of July 1, 1999 between us and The Bank of New York, as successor senior note trustee (the senior note indenture).
Optional Redemption	<p>The Exchange Notes will be redeemable in whole or in part, at our option, at any time at a redemption price equal to the greater of</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">100% of the principal amount of the Exchange Notes being redeemed, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (excluding the portion of any such interest accrued to the redemption date) on the Exchange Notes being redeemed discounted to the redemption date semiannually (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Adjusted Treasury Rate (as defined below) plus 20 basis points, plus accrued and unpaid interest on the Exchange Notes being redeemed to the date of redemption. See Description of Exchange Notes Optional Redemption.</p>
Security and Ranking	<p>The Exchange Notes will initially be secured by a series of our first mortgage bonds, issued and delivered by us to the senior note trustee. Upon the occurrence of certain events described in this prospectus under the heading Description of Exchange Notes General, the first mortgage bonds securing the Exchange Notes will be released, and the Exchange Notes will become our unsecured general obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. Unless we were to issue additional senior notes or optionally redeem outstanding first mortgage bonds, the release date would not occur prior to 2018, by which time the Exchange Notes and all other currently outstanding senior notes will have matured. If, however, we exercise our rights to optionally redeem \$273,140,000 of our currently redeemable outstanding first mortgage bonds, the release of the first mortgage bonds securing the Exchange Notes would occur immediately. First mortgage bonds issued to secure Exchange Notes until the release date are referred to in this prospectus as senior note mortgage bonds.</p>

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Under the senior note indenture, the release date means the earlier of:

the date that all of our first mortgage bonds, other than the senior note mortgage bonds, have been retired, and

the date upon which the senior note trustee holds senior note mortgage bonds constituting not less than 80% in aggregate principal amount of all of our outstanding first mortgage bonds.

As of July 31, 2004, we had \$983,185,000 aggregate principal amount of first mortgage bonds outstanding, of which \$600,000,000 (or about 61%) aggregate principal amount constituted senior note mortgage bonds held by the senior note trustee and subject to release on the release date.

Limitation on Liens

So long as any Exchange Notes are outstanding, we may not issue, assume, guarantee or permit to exist after the release date any debt secured by any lien upon any of our operating property (other than excepted property under the senior note indenture), except for certain permitted secured debt, without effectively securing all outstanding senior notes, including the Exchange Notes, equally and ratably with that debt (but only so long as such debt is secured). See Description of Exchange Notes Certain Covenants Limitation on Liens.

Limitation on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions

So long as any Exchange Notes are outstanding, we may not enter into or permit to exist, after the release date, any sale and lease-back transaction with respect to any Operating Property (as defined herein) (except for transactions involving leases for a term, including renewals, of not more than 48 months), if the purchasers commitment is obtained more than 18 months after the later of the completion of the acquisition, construction or development of that Operating Property or the placing in operation of that Operating Property or of that Operating Property as constructed or developed or substantially repaired, altered or improved. See Description of Exchange Notes Certain Covenants Limitation on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions.

Risk Factors

You should carefully read and consider, in addition to matters set forth elsewhere in this prospectus, the information in the RISK FACTORS section beginning on page 8.

Further Issuances

We may from time to time, without the consent of the holders of the Exchange Notes or our other debt securities, create and issue further debt securities having the same terms and conditions as the Exchange Notes so that the further issuance is consolidated and forms a single series with the previously outstanding Exchange Notes.

Form and Denomination

The Exchange Notes will be issued in fully registered form only in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof.

DTC Eligibility

The Exchange Notes will be represented by a Global Certificate deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company

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(DTC) or its nominee. See Description of Exchange Notes Book-Entry.

Trustee and Paying Agent

The Bank of New York.

Governing Law

The senior note indenture and the Original Notes are, and the Exchange Notes will be, governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

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RISK FACTORS

You should consider the following risk factors, in addition to the other information presented in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, in evaluating us, our business and whether to participate in this exchange offer. Any of the following risks, as well as other risks and uncertainties, could harm the value of the Exchange Notes directly or our business and financial results and thus indirectly cause the value of the Exchange Notes to decline, which in turn could cause you to lose all or part of your investment. The risks below are not the only ones related to us or the Exchange Notes. Additional risks not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial also may impair our business and cause the value of the Exchange Notes to decline. See Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.

Risks Related to Our Business and Industry

Because our actions in obtaining a supply of electricity are subject to regulatory prudence reviews, there exists the potential for the disallowance and, therefore, non-recovery of a portion of the costs of that supply.

We currently obtain our electricity to serve our basic generation service (BGS) customers entirely from contracted purchases from third-party suppliers through an auction process authorized by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU). Auctions in February 2003 and 2004 resulted in supply contracts covering portions of our requirements for various periods through May 31, 2007. The prices charged to our non-shopping customers since August 1, 2003 have essentially equaled our costs and were adjusted again on June 1, 2004 to reflect changes in those costs. If any of the third-party suppliers were to default on their obligations and no other third-party supplier stepped in to supply that load, or if future auctions do not result in contracts for all of our supply requirements, we would purchase replacement power in the open market at prices that may exceed our charges to customers. Although we are permitted to defer for future collection from customers the amounts by which our BGS costs and our costs incurred under non-utility generation agreements exceed amounts collected through our BGS and market transition charge rates, our actions in purchasing such power in the open market are subject to subsequent regulatory prudence reviews, which may lead to the disallowance of some of those costs, as occurred in connection with our deferred balances case that was decided in July 2003, as discussed below. A portion of the electricity currently purchased under existing agreements with non-utility generators is used to serve a portion of our BGS load, and the remainder of such electricity, as well as power we generate, is sold into the wholesale market, which actions are also subject to regulatory prudence reviews. Any of our costs that are disallowed for recovery would be charged against our earnings.

We have not received the full regulatory relief we requested in our rate and deferred balances cases with the NJBPU, and a final NJBPU decision following limited rehearing and reconsideration of certain issues is pending.

Under New Jersey's electric restructuring legislation, we were required to initiate proceedings to determine our unbundled rates to become effective August 1, 2003. In August 2002, we submitted two rate filings with the NJBPU which requested increases in base electric rates of approximately \$98 million annually and requested the recovery of deferred costs that exceeded amounts recovered under our market transition charge and societal benefits charge. On July 25, 2003, the NJBPU announced its decision in our base electric rate proceeding, which reduced our annual revenues by approximately \$62 million effective August 1, 2003. The NJBPU decision also provided for an interim return on equity of 9.5 percent on our rate base. The decision also required that, within approximately one year of its issuance, we would initiate another proceeding to request recovery of additional costs incurred to enhance system reliability. In that Phase II proceeding, the NJBPU could increase the return on equity to 9.75 percent or decrease it to 9.25 percent, depending on its assessment of the reliability of our service. Any reduction would be retroactive to August 1, 2003. The net revenue decrease from the NJBPU's decision consists of a \$223 million decrease in the electricity delivery charge, a \$111 million increase due to the August 1, 2003 expiration of annual customer credits previously mandated by the New Jersey transition legislation, a

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\$49 million increase in the market transition charge, and a net \$1 million increase in the societal benefits charge. The decision in the deferred balances proceeding disallowed \$153 million of deferred energy costs, so that the market transition charge allows for the recovery of the remaining \$465 million in deferred energy costs over the next ten years on an interim basis. We filed an interim motion for rehearing and reconsideration with the NJBPU on August 15, 2003 with respect to: (1) the disallowance of the \$153 million deferred energy costs discussed above; (2) the reduced rate of return on equity; and (3) \$42.7 million of disallowed costs to achieve merger savings. In its final decision and order issued on May 17, 2004, the NJBPU clarified the method for calculating interest attributable to the cost disallowances, resulting in a \$5.4 million reduction from the amount estimated in 2003. On June 1, 2004, we filed with the NJBPU a supplemental and amended motion for rehearing and reconsideration. On July 7, 2004, the NJBPU granted limited reconsideration and rehearing on the following issues: (1) deferred cost disallowances, (2) the capital structure including the rate of return, (3) merger savings, including amortization of certain costs to achieve merger savings, and (4) decommissioning. All other issues included in our amended motion were denied. Oral arguments were held on August 4, 2004. We are unable to predict the outcome of this matter.

On July 16, 2004, we filed the Phase II rate filing with the NJBPU which requested an increase in base rates of \$36 million, reflecting the recovery of system reliability costs and a 9.75 percent return on equity. The filing also requests an increase to the market transition charge deferred balance recovery of approximately \$20 million annually. The filing also fulfills the NJBPU requirement that a Phase II proceeding be conducted and that any expenditures and projects undertaken by us to increase our system reliability be reviewed.

We are subject to complex and changing government regulations that may require increased expense and/ or changes in business strategy that could have a negative impact on our results of operations.

We are subject to comprehensive regulation by various federal, state and local regulatory agencies that significantly influences our operating environment. We are required to have numerous permits, approvals and certificates from the agencies that regulate our business. We believe the necessary permits, approvals and certificates have been obtained for our existing operations and that our business is conducted in accordance with applicable laws; however, we are unable to predict the impact on our operating results from the future regulatory activities of any of these agencies. Changes in or reinterpretations of existing laws or regulations or the imposition of new laws or regulations may require us to incur additional expenses or change the way we run our businesses, and therefore may have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

Our retail rates, conditions of service, issuance of securities and other matters are subject to regulation by the NJBPU. With respect to our wholesale and interstate electric operations and rates, including regulation of our accounting policies and practices, we are subject to regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Decisions by either of these regulatory bodies could affect us adversely for the reasons described above.

Restructuring and deregulation in the electric utility industry may result in unrecoverable costs that could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

As a result of the actions taken by state legislative bodies over the last few years, major changes in the electric utility business have occurred and are continuing to take place in parts of the United States, including New Jersey, where we operate. These changes have resulted in fundamental alterations in the way utilities, like ours, conduct their business.

The FERC and the United States Congress are also proposing significant changes in the structure and conduct of the utility industry. The FERC's ongoing efforts to promote regional transmission organizations like the PJM Interconnection, which includes us as a transmission owner, for example, may affect how we operate and our costs of doing business. If these and other restructuring and deregulation-related efforts and proceedings result in unrecoverable costs, our business and results of operations may be adversely

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affected. We cannot predict the extent and timing of further efforts to restructure, deregulate or re-regulate us or our industry.

Our facilities may not operate as planned, which may increase our expenses or decrease our revenues and, thus, have an adverse effect on our financial performance.

Operation of transmission and distribution facilities involves risks, including the breakdown or failure of equipment or processes, accidents, labor disputes and performance below expected levels. In addition, weather-related incidents and other natural disasters can disrupt transmission and distribution delivery systems. Any of these occurrences could result in increased expenses, including higher maintenance costs that we may not be able to recover from customers. Moreover, if we are unable to perform our contractual obligations, penalties or damages may result.

Our operating results are affected by weather conditions and may fluctuate on a seasonal and quarterly basis.

Weather conditions directly influence the demand for electric power. In addition, we have historically delivered less power, and consequently earned less revenue, when weather conditions are milder. Severe weather, such as tornadoes, hurricanes and storms, may cause outages and property damage which may require us to incur additional expenses that we may not be able to recover from customers. The effect of the failure of our facilities to operate as planned, as described above, would be particularly burdensome during a peak demand period.

A downgrade in our credit rating could negatively affect our ability to access capital.

On December 23, 2003, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (S&P) lowered its corporate credit ratings on FirstEnergy and its regulated utility subsidiaries to BBB- from BBB and lowered FirstEnergy's senior unsecured debt rating to BB+ from BBB-. Except for our affiliate Ohio Edison Company's (Ohio Edison) senior secured issue rating, which was left unchanged, all other subsidiary ratings were lowered one notch as well. The ratings were removed from CreditWatch with negative implications, where they had been placed by S&P on August 18, 2003, and the ratings outlook returned to stable. The rating action followed a revision in S&P's assessment of FirstEnergy's consolidated business risk profile to 6 from 5 (1 equals low risk, 10 equals high risk), with S&P citing operational and management challenges as well as heightened regulatory uncertainty for its revision of our business risk assessment score. S&P's rationale for its revisions in these ratings included uncertainty regarding the timing of FirstEnergy's Ohio rate plan filing, the outcome of the joint United States-Canadian task force's then pending final report on the August 14, 2003 regional power outage, the outcome of the remedial phase of the Clean Air Act litigation relating to Ohio Edison's Sammis plant, and the extended outage at our other affiliates' Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and related pending subpoena. S&P further stated that the restart of Davis-Besse and a supportive Ohio rate plan extension would be vital positive developments that would aid an upgrade of FirstEnergy's ratings. The Davis-Besse restart has been completed and on April 4, 2004, Davis-Besse began operating at 100% capacity. On August 4, 2004, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approved a Rate Stabilization Plan that, among other things, extends generation price stabilization through 2008, subject to a three year competitive bid process.

On February 6, 2004, Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) downgraded FirstEnergy's senior unsecured debt to Baa3 from Baa2, our senior secured debt and that of our affiliates, Metropolitan Edison Company and Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec), to Baa1 from A2, our preferred stock rating to Ba1 from Baa2 and the senior unsecured rating of Penelec to Baa2 from A2. The ratings of FirstEnergy's other operating subsidiaries were confirmed and the ratings outlook for all securities returned to stable. Moody's said that the lower ratings were prompted by: 1) high consolidated leverage with significant holding company debt, 2) a degree of regulatory uncertainty in the service territories in which the company operates, 3) risks associated with investigations of the causes of the August 2003 blackout, and related securities litigation, and 4) a narrowing of the ratings range for the FirstEnergy operating utilities,

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given the degree to which FirstEnergy increasingly manages the utilities as a single system and the significant financial interrelationship among the subsidiaries.

If Moody's or S&P were to further downgrade our or our affiliates' credit ratings, particularly to below investment grade, our ability to access the capital markets would be negatively affected and our borrowing costs would increase, which could adversely impact our financial results. In addition, we could be required to provide further assurance of payment to the suppliers of the power that we use to serve our BGS customers and we would likely be required to pay a higher interest rate in future financings. Our potential pool of investors and funding sources could decrease and our liquidity could be adversely affected.

Risks Related to this Exchange Offer

The exchange notes will only be secured for part of their lifetime.

Until the release date, the Exchange Notes will be secured by a series of our senior note mortgage bonds issued and delivered by us to the senior note trustee. See "Description of the Exchange Notes Security and Release Date" below. On the release date, the Exchange Notes and all of our other senior notes issued under the senior note indenture and secured by senior note mortgage bonds will cease to be secured by senior note mortgage bonds, will become our unsecured general obligations and will rank equally with our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

If you do not properly tender your Original Notes for Exchange Notes, you will continue to hold Unregistered Notes which are subject to transfer restrictions.

We will only issue Exchange Notes in exchange for Original Notes that are received by the exchange agent in a timely manner together with all required documents. Therefore, you should allow sufficient time to ensure timely delivery of the Original Notes, and you should carefully follow the instructions on how to tender your Original Notes set forth under "The Exchange Offer Procedures for Tendering Original Notes" and in the letter of transmittal that you receive with this prospectus. Neither we nor the exchange agent are required to tell you of any defects or irregularities with respect to your tender of the Original Notes.

If you do not tender your Original Notes or if we do not accept your Original Notes because you did not tender your Original Notes properly, you will continue to hold Original Notes. Any Original Notes that remain outstanding after the expiration of this exchange offer will continue to be subject to restrictions on their transfer in accordance with the Securities Act. After the expiration of this exchange offer, holders of Original Notes will not (with limited exceptions) have any further rights to have their Original Notes registered under the Securities Act. In addition, if you tender your Original Notes for the purpose of participating in a distribution of the Exchange Notes, you will be required to comply with the registration and prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act in connection with any resale of the Exchange Notes. If you continue to hold any Original Notes after this exchange offer is completed, you may have difficulty selling them because of the restrictions on transfer and because there will be fewer Original Notes outstanding. The value of the remaining Original Notes could be adversely affected by the conclusion of this exchange offer. There may be no market for the remaining Original Notes and thus you may be unable to sell such notes.

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If an active trading market does not develop for the Exchange Notes, you may be unable to sell the Exchange Notes or to sell them at a price you deem sufficient.

The Exchange Notes will be new securities for which there is no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the Exchange Notes on any national securities exchange or to arrange for the Exchange Notes to be quoted on any automated system. We provide no assurance as to:

the liquidity of any trading market that may develop for the Exchange Notes;

the ability of holders to sell their Exchange Notes; or

the price at which holders would be able to sell their Exchange Notes.

Even if a trading market develops, the Exchange Notes may trade at higher or lower prices than their principal amount or purchase price, depending on many factors, including:

prevailing interest rates;

the number of holders of the Exchange Notes;

the interest of securities dealers in making a market for the Exchange Notes; and

our operating results.

If a market for the Exchange Notes does not develop, purchasers may be unable to resell the Exchange Notes for an extended period of time. Consequently, a holder of Exchange Notes may not be able to liquidate its investment readily, and the Exchange Notes may not be readily accepted as collateral for loans. In addition, market-making activities will be subject to restrictions of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act.

In addition, if a large number of holders of Original Notes do not tender Original Notes or tender Original Notes improperly, the limited amount of Exchange Notes that would be issued and outstanding after we complete this exchange offer could adversely affect the development of a market for the Exchange Notes.

If you are a broker-dealer, your ability to transfer the Original Notes may be restricted.

A broker-dealer that purchased Original Notes for its own account as part of market-making or trading activities must deliver a prospectus when it sells the Exchange Notes. Our obligation to make this prospectus available to broker-dealers is limited. Consequently, we cannot guarantee that a proper prospectus will be available to broker-dealers wishing to resell their Exchange Notes.

USE OF PROCEEDS

This exchange offer is intended to satisfy some of our obligations under the related registration rights agreement.

We will not receive any cash proceeds from the issuance of the Exchange Notes in this exchange offer. In consideration for issuing the Exchange Notes as contemplated in this prospectus, we will receive outstanding Original Notes in like principal amount. We will cancel all Original Notes surrendered to us in this exchange offer.

We used a portion of the net proceeds from the sale of the Original Notes to redeem \$40,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our Medium-Term Notes, 7.98% Series C due 2023 and \$50,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our Medium-Term Notes, 6.78% Series C due 2005. The remaining proceeds were used to pay at maturity \$160,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our First Mortgage Bonds, 7.125% Series due 2004, to repay short-term debt and for general corporate purposes.

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The following table shows our capitalization and short-term debt on a consolidated basis as of June 30, 2004.

	Actual June 30, 2004	
	Amount	% of Total
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Short-Term Debt	\$ 158,793	3.4%
Capitalization:		
Common stockholder's equity	3,176,438	68.8%
Preferred stock not subject to mandatory redemption	12,649	0.3%
Long-term debt(a)	1,268,408	27.5%
Total Capitalization and Short-term Debt	\$4,616,288	100.0%

(a) Including long-term debt payable within one year.

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following consolidated financial information should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements contained in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC.

	Jan. 1 - Nov. 6, 2001	Nov. 7 - Dec. 31, 2001	Year Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended June 30,
			2002	2003	2004
	(Dollars in thousands)				
Income Summary:					
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,838,638	\$ 282,902	\$ 2,328,415	\$ 2,364,203	\$ 1,047,789
Operating Income	292,847	43,666	335,209	146,271	86,926
Net Income	34,467	30,041	251,895	68,017	50,234
Consolidated Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges*	1.35	3.94	5.19	2.14	2.96

We were formerly a wholly-owned subsidiary of GPU, Inc., which merged with FirstEnergy on November 7, 2001. Pre-merger period and post-merger period financial results are separated by a heavy black line.

* The ratio of earnings to fixed charges represents, on a pre-tax basis, the number of times earnings cover fixed charges. Earnings consist of income before extraordinary items adding back fixed charges and the provision for income taxes. Fixed charges consist of interest on long-term debt, other interest expense, and an estimate of the interest portion of all rentals charged to income.

THE EXCHANGE OFFER**General**

We are offering to exchange up to \$300,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Exchange Notes for the same aggregate principal amount of Original Notes, properly tendered and not validly withdrawn before the expiration date. Unlike the Original Notes, the Exchange Notes will be registered under the Securities Act. We are making this exchange offer for all of the Original Notes. Your participation in this exchange offer is voluntary, and you should carefully consider whether to accept this offer.

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On the date of this prospectus, \$300,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Original Notes are outstanding. Our obligations to accept Original Notes for Exchange Notes pursuant to this exchange offer are limited by the conditions listed below under The Exchange Offer Conditions to the Exchange Offer. We currently expect that each of the conditions will be satisfied and that no waivers will be necessary.

Purpose of the Exchange Offer

On April 23, 2004, we issued and sold \$300,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of 5.625% Senior Notes due 2016 in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The initial purchasers of the Original Notes subsequently resold the Original Notes to qualified institutional buyers in reliance on Rule 144A under the Securities Act and under Regulation S under the Securities Act.

Because the transactions were exempt from registration under the Securities Act, a holder may reoffer, resell or otherwise transfer Original Notes only if the Original Notes are registered under the Securities Act or if an applicable exemption from the registration and prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act is available.

In connection with the issuance and sale of the Original Notes, we entered into a registration rights agreement with the initial purchasers of the Original Notes, which requires us to (i) prepare and, as soon as practicable following the date of original issuance of the Original Notes (April 23, 2004), file with the SEC an exchange offer registration statement with respect to this exchange offer and the issuance and delivery to the holders, in exchange for the Original Notes, a like principal amount of Exchange Notes, (ii) use our reasonable best efforts to cause the exchange offer registration statement to be declared effective under the Securities Act not later than 180 calendar days following the date of original issuance of the Original Notes, (iii) use our reasonable best efforts to keep the exchange offer registration statement effective until the closing of this exchange offer and (iv) use our reasonable best efforts to cause this exchange offer to be consummated within 210 calendar days following the date of original issuance of the Original Notes. In addition, there are circumstances under which we are required to file a shelf registration statement with respect to resales of the Original Notes. The registration rights agreement also provides that if neither this exchange offer is consummated nor a shelf registration statement is declared effective within 210 calendar days of the date of original issuance of the Original Notes, the annual interest rate borne by the Original Notes will be increased by 0.25% per annum commencing on the date that is 210 days after the date of original issuance of the Original Notes until this exchange offer is consummated or the shelf registration statement is declared effective. We have filed a copy of the registration rights agreement as an exhibit to the registration statement on Form S-4 with respect to the Exchange Notes offered by this prospectus.

We are making this exchange offer to satisfy our obligations under the registration rights agreement. Holders of Original Notes who do not tender their Original Notes or whose Original Notes are tendered but not accepted will have to rely on an applicable exemption from registration requirements under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws in order to sell their Original Notes.

The Exchange Notes will be issued in a like principal amount and will be identical in all material respects to the Original Notes, except that the Exchange Notes will be registered under the Securities Act, will be issued without a restrictive legend, will bear different CUSIP numbers and will not be entitled to the rights of holders of Original Notes under the registration rights agreement, including additional interest. Consequently, the Exchange Notes, unlike the Original Notes, may be resold by a holder without any restrictions on their transfer under the Securities Act.

Resale of Exchange Notes

We have not requested, and do not intend to request, an interpretation by the staff of the SEC as to whether the Exchange Notes issued pursuant to this exchange offer in exchange for the Original Notes may be offered for sale, resold or otherwise transferred by any holder without compliance with the

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registration and prospectus delivery provisions of the Securities Act. Instead, based on existing interpretations of the Securities Act by the staff of the SEC set forth in several no-action letters to third parties, and subject to the immediately following sentence, we believe that the Exchange Notes to be issued pursuant to this exchange offer in exchange for Original Notes may be offered for resale, resold and otherwise transferred by any holder of Exchange Notes (other than holders who are broker-dealers) without further compliance with the registration and prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. However, any purchaser of the Original Notes who is an affiliate of ours or who intends to participate in this exchange offer for the purpose of distributing the Exchange Notes, or any broker-dealer who purchased the Original Notes from us for resale pursuant to Rule 144A or any other available exemption under the Securities Act, (i) will not be able to rely on the interpretations of the staff of the SEC set forth in the above-mentioned no-action letters, (ii) will not be entitled to tender its Original Notes in this exchange offer and (iii) must comply with the registration and prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act in connection with any sale or transfer of the Original Notes unless such sale or transfer is made pursuant to an exemption from such requirements. Because the SEC has not considered our exchange offer in the context of a no-action letter, we cannot assure you that the staff would make a similar determination with respect to this exchange offer.

If you participate in this exchange offer, you must represent to us, among other things, that:

(i) any Exchange Notes you receive will be acquired in the ordinary course of business;

(ii) you have no arrangement or understanding with any person to participate in a distribution (within the meaning of the Securities Act) of the Exchange Notes;

(iii) you are not an affiliate (as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act) of ours;

(iv) if you are not a broker-dealer, you are not engaged in, and do not intend to engage in, the distribution (within the meaning of the Securities Act) of the Exchange Notes; and

(v) if you are a participating broker-dealer that will receive Exchange Notes for your own account in exchange for Original Notes that were acquired as a result of market-making activities or other trading activities, you acknowledge that you will deliver a prospectus meeting the requirements of the Securities Act in connection with any resale of such Exchange Notes.

Any holder that is not able to make these representations or certain similar representations will not be entitled to participate in this exchange offer and, therefore, will not be permitted to exchange its Original Notes for Exchange Notes.

This exchange offer is not being made to, nor will we accept tenders for exchange from, holders of Original Notes in any jurisdiction in which this exchange offer or the acceptance thereof would not be in compliance with the securities or blue sky laws of such jurisdiction.

Terms of the Exchange Offer

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus and in the letter of transmittal, we will accept for exchange any Original Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn before expiration of this exchange offer. The date of acceptance for exchange of the Original Notes and completion of this exchange offer is the exchange date, which will be the first business day following the expiration date unless we extend the date as described in this prospectus. The Original Notes may be tendered only in integral multiples of \$1,000. We will issue \$1,000 principal amount of Exchange Notes in exchange for each \$1,000 principal amount of Original Notes surrendered under this exchange offer. The Exchange Notes will be delivered on the earliest practicable date following the exchange date.

The form and terms of the Exchange Notes will be substantially identical to the form and terms of the Original Notes, except the Exchange Notes:

(i) will be registered under the Securities Act;

(ii) will not bear legends restricting their transfer;

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(iii) will bear different CUSIP numbers; and

(iv) will not be entitled to the rights of holders of Original Notes under the registration rights agreement, including additional interest.

The Exchange Notes will evidence the same debt as the Original Notes. The Exchange Notes will be issued under and entitled to the benefits of the senior note indenture, as described below, under which the Original Notes were issued.

This exchange offer is not conditioned upon any minimum aggregate principal amount of Original Notes being tendered for exchange. This prospectus and the letter of transmittal are being sent to all registered holders of outstanding Original Notes. There will be no fixed record date for determining registered holders of Original Notes entitled to participate in this exchange offer.

We intend to conduct this exchange offer in accordance with the applicable requirements of the Securities Act, Exchange Act and rules and regulations of the SEC. Original Notes that are not exchanged in this exchange offer will remain outstanding and continue to accrue interest and will be entitled to the rights and benefits their holders have under the senior note indenture relating to the Original Notes and Exchange Notes. Holders of Original Notes do not have any appraisal or dissenters rights under the senior note indenture in connection with this exchange offer.

We will be deemed to have accepted for exchange validly tendered Original Notes when we have given oral (promptly confirmed in writing) or written notice of the acceptance to the exchange agent. The exchange agent will act as agent for the holders of Original Notes who surrender them in this exchange offer for the purposes of receiving Exchange Notes from us and delivering Exchange Notes to their holders. The exchange agent will make the exchange as promptly as practicable on or after the date of acceptance for exchange of Original Notes. We expressly reserve the right to amend or terminate this exchange offer and not to accept for exchange any Original Notes not previously accepted for exchange, upon the occurrence of any of the conditions specified below under *The Exchange Offer* *Conditions to the Exchange Offer*.

Holders who tender Original Notes in this exchange offer will not be required to pay brokerage commissions or fees or, subject to the instructions in the letter of transmittal, transfer taxes with respect to the exchange of Original Notes. We will pay all charges and expenses, other than applicable taxes described below, in connection with this exchange offer. It is important that you read *The Exchange Offer* *Solicitation of Tenders; Fees and Expenses* and *The Exchange Offer* *Transfer Taxes* below for more details regarding fees and expenses incurred in this exchange offer.

Any Original Notes not tendered for exchange will be entitled to the benefits of the senior note indenture. If any tendered Original Notes are not accepted for exchange because of an invalid tender or the occurrence of certain other events, such Original Notes will be returned, without expense, to the tendering holder thereof as promptly as practicable after the expiration date.

Expiration Date; Extension; Termination; Amendment

This exchange offer will expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on November 1, 2004, unless we have extended the period of time that this exchange offer is open. The expiration date will be at least 20 business days after the date we mail notice of this exchange offer to DTC.

We reserve the right to extend the period of time that this exchange offer is open, and delay acceptance for exchange of any Original Notes, by giving oral (promptly confirmed in writing) or written notice to the exchange agent and by timely public announcement no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the previously scheduled expiration date. During any extension, all Original Notes previously tendered will remain subject to this exchange offer unless validly withdrawn.

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We also reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to:

(i) end or amend this exchange offer and not to accept for exchange any Original Notes not previously accepted for exchange upon the occurrence of any of the events specified below under *The Exchange Offer* *Conditions to the Exchange Offer* that have not been waived by us; and

(ii) amend the terms of this exchange offer in any manner.

If any termination or amendment occurs, we will notify the exchange agent and will either issue a press release or give oral or written notice to holders of Original Notes as promptly as practicable.

Exchange Notes will only be issued after the exchange agent timely receives (1) a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal (or facsimile thereof or an agent's message (as hereinafter defined) in lieu thereof) and (2) all other required documents. However, we reserve the absolute right to waive any defects or irregularities in the tender or conditions of this exchange offer.

Original Notes that are not accepted for exchange, and those Original Notes submitted for a greater principal amount than the tendering holder desires to exchange, will be returned, without expense, to the tendering holder thereof as promptly as practicable after the expiration date.

Procedures For Tendering Original Notes

Valid Tender

Except as set forth below, in order for Original Notes to be validly tendered pursuant to this exchange offer, either (i) (a) a properly completed and duly executed letter of transmittal (or facsimile thereof) or an electronic message agreeing to be bound by the letter of transmittal properly transmitted through DTC's Automated Tender Offer Program (*ATOP*) for a book-entry transfer, with any required signature guarantees and any other required documents, must be received by the exchange agent at the address or the facsimile number set forth under *The Exchange Offer* *Exchange Agent* on or prior to the expiration date and (b) tendered Original Notes must be received by the exchange agent, or such Original Notes must be tendered pursuant to the procedures for book-entry transfer set forth below and a book-entry confirmation must be received by the exchange agent, in each case on or prior to the expiration date, or (ii) the guaranteed delivery procedures set forth below must be complied with. To receive confirmation of valid tender of Original Notes, a holder should contact the exchange agent at the telephone number listed under *The Exchange Offer* *Exchange Agent*.

If less than all of the Original Notes are tendered, a tendering holder should fill in the amount of Original Notes being tendered in the appropriate box on the letter of transmittal. The entire amount of Original Notes delivered to the exchange agent will be deemed to have been tendered unless otherwise indicated.

If any letter of transmittal, endorsement, note power, power of attorney or any other document required by the letter of transmittal is signed by a trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, attorney-in fact, officer of a corporation or other person acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity, such person should so indicate when signing. Unless waived by us, evidence satisfactory to us of such person's authority to so act also must be submitted.

Any beneficial owner of Original Notes that are held by or registered in the name of a broker, dealer, commercial bank, trust company or other nominee is urged to contact such entity promptly if such beneficial holder wishes to participate in this exchange offer.

The method of delivering Original Notes, the letter of transmittal and all other required documents is at the option and sole risk of the tendering holder. Delivery will be deemed made only when actually received by the exchange agent. Instead of delivery by mail, it is recommended that holders use an overnight or hand delivery service. In all cases, sufficient time should be allowed to assure timely delivery and proper insurance should be obtained. No Original Note, letter of transmittal or other required

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document should be sent to us. Holders may request their respective brokers, dealers, commercial banks, trust companies or other nominees to effect these transactions for them.

Book-Entry Transfer

The exchange agent has established an account with respect to the Original Notes at DTC for purposes of this exchange offer. The exchange agent and DTC have confirmed that any financial institution that is a participant in DTC may utilize DTC's ATOP procedures to tender Original Notes. Any participant in DTC may make book-entry delivery of Original Notes by causing DTC to transfer the Original Notes into the exchange agent's account in accordance with DTC's ATOP procedures for transfer.

However, the exchange for the Original Notes so tendered will be made only after a book-entry confirmation of such book-entry transfer of Original Notes into the exchange agent's account and timely receipt by the exchange agent of an agent's message and any other documents required by the letter of transmittal. The term "agent's message" means a message, transmitted by DTC and received by the exchange agent and forming part of a book-entry confirmation, which states that DTC has received an express acknowledgment from a participant tendering Original Notes that are the subject of the book-entry confirmation that the participant has received and agrees to be bound by the terms of the letter of transmittal, and that we may enforce that agreement against the participant.

Delivery of documents to DTC does not constitute delivery to the exchange agent.

Signature Guarantees

Certificates for Original Notes need not be endorsed and signature guarantees on a letter of transmittal or a notice of withdrawal, as the case may be, are unnecessary unless (i) a certificate for Original Notes is registered in a name other than that of the person surrendering the certificate or (ii) a registered holder completes the box entitled "Special Issuance Instructions" or "Special Delivery Instructions" in the letter of transmittal. In the case of (i) or (ii) above, such certificates for Original Notes must be duly endorsed or accompanied by a properly executed note power, with the endorsement or signature on the note power and on the letter of transmittal or the notice of withdrawal, as the case may be, guaranteed by a firm or other entity identified in Rule 17Ad-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as an "eligible guarantor institution," including (as such terms are defined therein) (i) a bank, (ii) a broker, dealer, municipal securities broker or dealer or government securities broker or dealer, (iii) a credit union, (iv) a national securities exc