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**STATEMENT OF
RICHARD P. HOMRIGHAUSEN
MAYOR, CITY OF DOVER, OHIO**

**BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR
SAFETY
AND
THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON GREEN JOBS AND THE NEW ECONOMY
OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**JOINT HEARING
ON
"THE CLEAN AIR ACT AND JOBS"**

MARCH 17, 2011



TREE CITY USA

Good morning, Chairman Carper, Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Barrasso, Ranking Member Boozman, members of both subcommittees, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Richard P. Homrighausen, and I am the Mayor of the City of Dover, Ohio. I have had the honor of testifying before the full Environment and Public Works Committee on three previous occasions, and I thank both subcommittees for the invitation to appear before you today to discuss the targeted impacts that various EPA regulations are having, and are expected to have, on jobs and our local economy in East Central Ohio.

Dover, Ohio, with a population of 12,826 based on the 2010 census, is located in the heart of the industrial Midwest, and I believe our experiences are shared by a great number of small to mid-sized municipalities across the region. There are more than 950 commercial, industrial, and institutional business interests located in the City of Dover. In addition to providing traditional city services, Dover also owns and operates its own municipal electric system, Dover Light and Power, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010. Providing reliable and affordable electricity to our homes and businesses is an added responsibility for the City of Dover, and it has come with its challenges. Lately, most of those challenges have directly resulted from the myriad of environmental regulations proposed and / or enacted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Air Act.

The City of Dover's electric system is supported by electric generation units directly owned by the City, some jointly owned units, as well as electricity purchased through our membership in American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP). AMP is a wholesale electricity and services provider for 128 member municipal electric systems located in Ohio and five other states. Dover's membership in AMP has enabled us to benefit from a more diversified power supply portfolio than what we could have developed by ourselves, which includes renewable as well as fossil

resources. Over the next several years, Dover's participation in AMP-developed projects is expected to add approximately 18.7 MW of new coal, hydroelectric, and solar capacity to our power supply portfolio.

Even with the planned diversification of our energy portfolio, Dover is still highly dependent on cost-effective Midwestern coal-fired generation. Dover is located in coal country, and the cornerstone of the City's electric system is the City-owned, 16-MW coal-fired baseload power plant. Through its membership in AMP, Dover also is a participant in the Prairie State Energy Campus, a new 1600-MW baseload coal plant currently under construction in Illinois and scheduled to commence commercial operation of the first unit later this year. Once completed, Prairie State will supply Dover with approximately 5 MW of some of the cleanest coal-fired capacity in the nation. In addition to these Dover and AMP projects, Dover obtains approximately 23% of its power supply needs from the wholesale electric market. In our region of the country, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that approximately 72% of these wholesale market purchases come from coal-fired generation units. Thus, regulations that impact any coal units in our region are expected to impact the cost of electricity for Dover and our customers.

Dover's other local generation resources include an additional 16.2 MW of "stand-by" electricity that can be generated by our natural gas turbine. We have seven diesel generators with a total capacity of 13.4 MW. Four of these diesel units are solely owned by the City, and three are jointly owned by the City and AMP.

With our on-site capacity, we are able to generate approximately 37% of our electricity demand locally. The reliability and energy security value of these local power generation resources was reinforced by the August 2003 blackout in our part of the country. While surrounding communities were without power for hours, and in some instances days, Dover never lost power. But the benefit of having and maintaining local generation comes with significant costs to the City, particularly

compliance costs related to an ever-increasing array of environmental regulations on our fossil – and especially coal-fired – generation resources.

Unlike larger investor-owned utility companies, Dover does not own or have access to a fleet of power plants that we can selectively control or shut down in response to new emission control requirements. Thus, environmental regulations on coal-fired generation resources can have a greater impact on the power supply decisions made by municipal electric systems such as ours, because we have limited response options to such regulations. Put simply, EPA's rulemakings can put us in the untenable position of deciding to either spend millions of dollars on the plant upgrades necessary to assure compliance, or shut down our local generation capacity. While neither option is acceptable to us, the latter decision is one we especially hope to avoid, as it would result in loss of local decision-making and control of our power supply, increased vulnerability to volatile electricity markets, eventually higher electricity costs to customers, and direct job losses at our power plant. Because business decisions are most often related to their costs, we can only expect that significant electricity cost increases in Dover would also result in negative economic impacts for our energy-intensive business customers.

Over the years, Dover has invested significant time and resources in order to position our local power generation to continually advance in a logical, measured way that assures both reliability and environmental stewardship while maintaining costs.

For instance, Dover was the first municipal electric utility in the nation to utilize natural gas co-firing at its 16-MW coal plant. Dover partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE) and Coen Company in a clean coal demonstration project at our coal-fired plant by adding two natural gas-fired burners in the furnace to reduce emissions during operations. As an added benefit, the burners allowed Dover to start up and transfer to coal with minimal to no opacity excursions and greatly reduced emissions. The cost to the City of Dover for this project was \$200,000.

As another example, in 2007, Dover demolished and removed three antiquated boilers from the power house in order to create space for the installation of new, state-of-the-art clean coal generation, should it become affordable. Unfortunately, that space remains empty, in part because rising environmental compliance costs for coal units have essentially priced new, local, clean coal-fired generation beyond our reach.

In 2008, Dover completed installation of a baghouse on our 16-MW coal-fired unit. The \$6.15 million project greatly reduced both particulate emissions and opacity.

However, despite Dover's ongoing efforts, we are struggling to keep up with the rapid pace by which EPA is issuing rules that each have a significant impact on us and cumulatively are potentially devastating, as I will explain.

Industrial Boiler MACT

Because Dover's coal plant is below 25 MW of capacity, it is subject to the Industrial Boiler MACT rule, which was finalized by EPA last month. Four other Ohio municipal electric systems have boilers covered under the Industrial Boiler MACT rule (Hamilton, Orrville, Painesville, and Shelby). This rule was proposed by EPA in June 2010 under a court deadline to establish maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards for thousands of industrial / commercial / institutional boilers and process heaters commonly found throughout the nation's manufacturing sectors, including chemicals, petroleum, biofuels, pulp and paper, furniture, rubber, aluminum, and agricultural processing sectors, and, in addition to municipalities, institutions such as hospitals and prisons, universities, federal governmental facilities, and commercial entities. Many of these entities have manufacturing facilities or other sizeable operations located in Dover.

During the comment period, EPA received thousands of comments requesting modifications aimed at decreasing the devastating impacts and compliance costs. For example, EPA was encouraged to include a special subcategory for small municipal utilities to address the unique challenges faced by these small communities. While EPA agreed to consider small entity issues in the Industrial Boiler MACT rule, the agency did not establish a small utility subcategory as requested. Instead, EPA set stringent numeric emission limits based on the “best performing” industrial boilers without evidence that municipal utility boilers – which have different operating objectives – can achieve these limits.

EPA also did not include a practical, health-based compliance alternative that the agency itself estimated would save \$2 billion in compliance costs with no resulting detrimental impacts to human health or the environment. In a prior version of this rule, stringent hydrogen chloride (HCl) emission limits did not apply to sources that could demonstrate that emissions posed no adverse risk beyond facility fence lines. Several municipal utilities such as Dover would have been eligible for this demonstration, which would have saved us an estimated \$2 million in installation costs for HCl controls, plus \$367,000 in annual O&M costs for our Boiler #4. Unfortunately, under significant pressure from environmental organizations, EPA declined to include the health-based option despite the fact that Congress gave EPA the discretion to treat HCl differently from other compounds. Health-based relief presents an opportunity to reduce the significant cost burden on small municipal generators without causing any harm to human health or the environment.

Jobs are at risk. An unreasonable and unworkable Industrial Boiler MACT rule could place thousands of manufacturing jobs across the country at risk because of the high cost of compliance – estimated at over \$20 billion in capital costs alone, based on the proposed rule. This could amount to over 18,500 potential jobs at risk in Ohio alone, based on the IHS Global Insight study entitled, “The Economic

Impact of Proposed EPA Boiler / Process Heater MACT Rule on ICI Boiler and Process Heater Operators," August 2010 (it should be noted that this study was based on the rule as proposed; an updated analysis of the final rule has not been completed at this time).

The loss of stable, high-paying manufacturing jobs in local communities already suffering under the current economic downturn is devastating. The unemployment rate in Tuscarawas County for January 2011 was 10.7%, up from 9.8% the month before and well above the national average. Businesses in communities with impacted municipal electric generators, such as Dover, will be doubly hurt and will pay for the new Industrial Boiler MACT rule both through direct compliance costs and through increased local electric rates.

RICE NESHAP

Since it was first proposed in February 2010, EPA's new rule (finalized in August 2010) establishing a National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE) has generated significant opposition from various sources categories, including public power.

In communities, the types of facilities that are likely to have RICE engines that will be impacted by the rule include public water plants, wastewater treatment plants, and engines used to start combustion turbines; also included are RICE engines used for electric system peak shaving or demand response programs. Dover has six RICE units which are jointly owned by the city and AMP, and six units owned and operated by the City of Dover, as follows: one diesel at the City's wastewater treatment plant, one diesel at the City's water treatment plant, and a total of four units at the City's coal-fired power plant (one air compressor, one gas compressor, one diesel start-up unit for the gas turbine generator, and one diesel generator).

In December 2010, EPA issued a Notice of Reconsideration on a limited section of the final rule to allow for additional public comments to address issues related to the use of RICE units for voltage support and other essential functions to support

local electric systems and prevent power outages. EPA's definition of what constitutes and triggers an "emergency" was also open for comment.

It was clear from a public meeting held by EPA in January 2011 that the agency did not have enough information to fully appreciate the importance of RICE units to the safe and reliable operation of local electric systems when it proposed and later finalized the rule. Municipal systems such as Dover have concerns that the rule, if left unmodified, will inadvertently adversely impact local and regional power supply and system operations. The essential, though relatively infrequent, operation of these units (in terms of hours per year) attests to the need to modify the rule's definition of "emergency" to accommodate their role in maintaining a safe and reliable electric generation, distribution, and transmission system. Further, by addressing the "emergency" definition, EPA can remove some of the concerns regarding the cost of complying with the new rule and impacts on our customers, which have been estimated by EPA to be approximately \$100,000 per RICE unit (or approximately \$600,000 combined for the City's six RICE units).

COAL ASH

EPA issued this proposed rule in June 2010 in response to a single wet coal-ash impoundment failure in Tennessee in 2008 and is currently evaluating comments filed. EPA asked for public comment on two approaches available under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) for addressing the perceived risks of coal-ash management. Subtitle C regulation would treat coal combustion by-products (CCBs) as hazardous wastes under RCRA, thus subjecting them to specific disposal requirements and likely eliminating any recycling options, while Subtitle D regulation would present less stringent disposal requirements. EPA openly stated that the intended goal of both options is to shift disposal options away from wet storage (ash ponds) to dry storage (landfills) of waste. Both proposed options would set requirements for existing and new impoundments. Both proposals would require on a national basis that liners and ground water monitoring are in place at new landfills handling coal ash, in order to prevent leaching of

contaminants to groundwater and resulting risks to human health, and would have requirements for closure and post-closure care.

The EPA is proposing to adopt the same approach for new and existing landfills under RCRA Subtitle D as it is proposing under RCRA Subtitle C – i.e., the same minimum design requirements for new landfills (or new portions of existing landfills). Existing landfills receiving CCBs after the effective date of the final rule would not be required to be retrofitted with a new minimum technology liner and leachate collection and removal system, or to close as long as the system is meeting groundwater monitoring requirements.

Dover disposes of its coal ash at an approved ash landfill about 65 miles away from the power plant, at Richmond Mills, in Richmond, Ohio, at a cost of \$15.50 per ton. These disposal costs are projected to double, if not triple, if the proposed new regulations are finalized.

The City of Dover and our customers are potentially facing millions of dollars in compliance costs with these and other new regulations issued by the EPA relating to NO_x, SO₂, greenhouse gases (GHGs), and hazardous air pollutants. Some of these expenses will be directly imposed on our coal plant, while others will be borne by the City as a result of our participation in other electric generation projects being developed by AMP. In addition, these environmental compliance costs will be borne by our industrial, commercial, and institutional customers – both due to their own compliance with many of these regulations as well as through the increased cost of electricity due to such compliance upstream. Residential customers will likely see these costs in increased electricity prices as well as increased prices for purchased goods and services.

While Tuscarawas County is currently in attainment for all criteria pollutants, some neighboring counties are not as lucky, and it could be only a matter of time – or wind currents – before our home county also could be subject to the economic

development limitations that come with nonattainment status. For example, increased traffic and congestion on I-77, which runs through Dover, could lead to an ozone non-attainment designation at some point in the future, which would be expected to require a costly new vehicle inspection and maintenance program for the county, as well as other limitations on emissions of NOx and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the components of ozone. Such limitations could have major impacts especially on our chemical and plastics industries, which employ hundreds of workers locally.

We are particularly concerned about the unknown costs associated with compliance with yet-to-be-determined regulations to control GHGs, which EPA is in the process of developing. New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for GHGs from utility units (both new and existing, and including both coal and natural gas units) are expected to be voluntarily proposed by EPA in July. While EPA has touted the benefits of carbon capture and storage technology for GHG control from coal-fired power plants, this technology is not currently commercially available, and only a handful of large utilities are in the process of conducting research projects on its applicability and practicality, mostly with sizable federal funding assistance as well as sizable parasitic losses.

EPA has also promoted the use of energy efficiency as a possible solution to reducing GHG emissions. In Dover, we view increasing energy efficiency – both on our system and at the end user – as our least expensive power supply option. Energy not needed is energy that does not have to be built or maintained. Over the years, we have changed out our old street lights for more efficient models, which translates to nearly 200 tons of coal annually that the City does not have to purchase – and our power plant does not have to burn. In addition, Dover is a full participant in AMP's new Efficiency\$mart program, and the City will invest nearly \$1 million over the next three years on incentives and technical assistance to help our customers reduce their electricity use. The program is projected to reduce demand by more than 2700 MWh over the first three years. Increased energy

efficiency is one way to reduce emissions, but it can be most effective on the supply (i.e., power plant) side of the equation. However, in order to make energy efficiency a viable option, EPA needs to address the current New Source Review (NSR) rules that prevent electric utilities from modifying existing plants to improve efficiency.

Given the huge uncertainties and potential costs associated with GHG regulation, I applaud Senator Inhofe for introducing S. 482, the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011. This bill would preclude EPA from using the Clean Air Act to regulate GHGs. Instead, Congress should take the responsibility of developing new legislation to address climate change on an economy-wide basis that balances environmental goals with impacts on consumers and the economy.

There have been a number of recent studies that show a significant reduction in electric generating capacity resulting from GHG and other regulations under the Clean Air Act. Just last week, Barclays Capital estimated that coal capacity would decline by 30 GW within the next four years. Other recent reports have included much higher estimates (for example, over 100 GW in coal-fired retirements by 2020, from an EEI / ICF International analysis, January 2011). The impacts of these retirements will affect electricity capacity most in coal-dependent regions of the country. While natural gas is projected as the fuel that will be used to replace some of the lost capacity, it certainly cannot provide full replacement in the near term, and increased demand will lead to increased prices. Coal retirements, particularly in our part of the country, will inevitably increase our reliance on volatile wholesale electric markets, as discussed previously. Even without those direct environmental compliance costs associated with our coal-fired power plant, Dover and its customers will end up paying for compliance by other electric generators throughout the region with all these environmental regulations.

All of us share a concern about the environment. As an elected official with responsibilities to my community and its citizens, I want to make sure that the

Dover of tomorrow is even better than the Dover of today – this is our commitment to our citizens and our environment. We strive for a sustainable community. We need to be able to make careful, informed decisions that will enable our community to grow and prosper, but these decisions are increasingly difficult in the current climate of uncertainty and regulatory overreach by the EPA.

It is important to note that the “one size fits all” premise does not work at all when it comes to energy policy, or for that matter the environmental policies which far too often seem to drive energy policy decisions. The diverse and regional nature of our energy resources has contributed to the diverse and regional economies that drive our nation’s economic development. The Midwest’s industrial base, for example, supplies products throughout the nation and is highly sensitive to electricity prices in a global market. Our use of regional coal for electricity generation has enabled us to effectively contribute to the national economy and create and maintain jobs. The nation as a whole cannot shut coal out as a resource option -- not if we also want to maintain our national goals of energy independence, reliability, and affordability.

The Clean Air Act has resulted in huge improvements in air quality since the 1970s, and we have all benefited from those improvements. But environmental regulations must be tempered with economic realities. The Clean Air Act itself embraces this principle through the use of cost / benefit analysis in the regulatory process. Unfortunately, EPA’s recently issued and proposed rules are creating a regulatory “train wreck,” resulting in a piling on of regulatory burdens for electric utilities that use coal specifically. This approach is more likely to result in lengthy legal battles than in cleaner air.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some local government and electric utility perspective on this important issue. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.



DLP by the numbers

Assets
 Poles.....5,195
 Transformers.....1,594
 Street Lights.....2,397
 Security Lights..... 639

Overhead Lines 70 miles
 Underground Lines 25.8 miles
 Transmission Lines..... 3.5 miles

Total assessed value in 2010
\$25,332,300

Customers
 Residential.....5,855
 Commercial 856
 Industrial 143
Total: 6,854



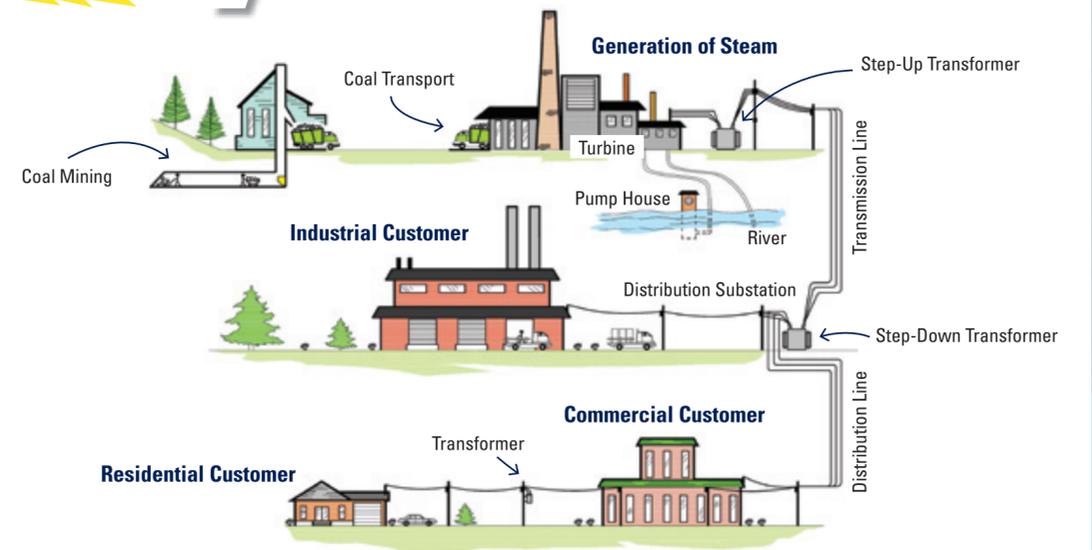
The first field division office.



This is believed to be the first power pole in Dover, installed sometime in the 1920s.



Steps in the chain of electric service



Partnerships in Power

American Municipal Power

American Municipal Power (AMP) owns and manages a diverse array of power resources, allowing its 128 members, including Dover, to select the sources that best meet their unique needs. AMP owns fossil fuel and renewable sources and continues to develop a number of other generation assets to meet members' short- and long-term needs through a variety of joint ventures. APM also aggressively pursues an array of new power resources, including fossil fuels, hydroelectric, solar, wind and other forms of renewable energy.

By teaming with AMP, Dover has full access to the tools and knowledge of a national leader of energy suppliers helping the city provide the best electrical service possible to its residents.



Ohio Municipal Electric Association

Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA) is the city's legislative liaison for AMP and other Ohio public power communities on both the state and federal levels. OMEA's goal is to protect the independence and constitutional rights of Ohio municipal electric systems by lobbying, building coalitions, performing legislative analysis and staying involved with members.

Celebrating Dover's

100 Years of Public Power



Dover Light & Power
ESTABLISHED : 1910



A Word from the Mayor



Dover Light & Power is the City of Dover's last bastion of hope in a world where mega energy companies are the norm and local control is a distant memory. For the past 100 years, Dover has been a proud Public Power Community providing our businesses, industries and residents with reliable electricity at an affordable price from a system owned by all who call Dover home.

As one of only five municipalities in the State of Ohio still generating a portion of its electricity needs, Dover has all the tools and abilities to control its destiny. By being an active member of the American Public Power Association (APPA), American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) and the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA), the city plays a leading role in how public power will operate in the future.

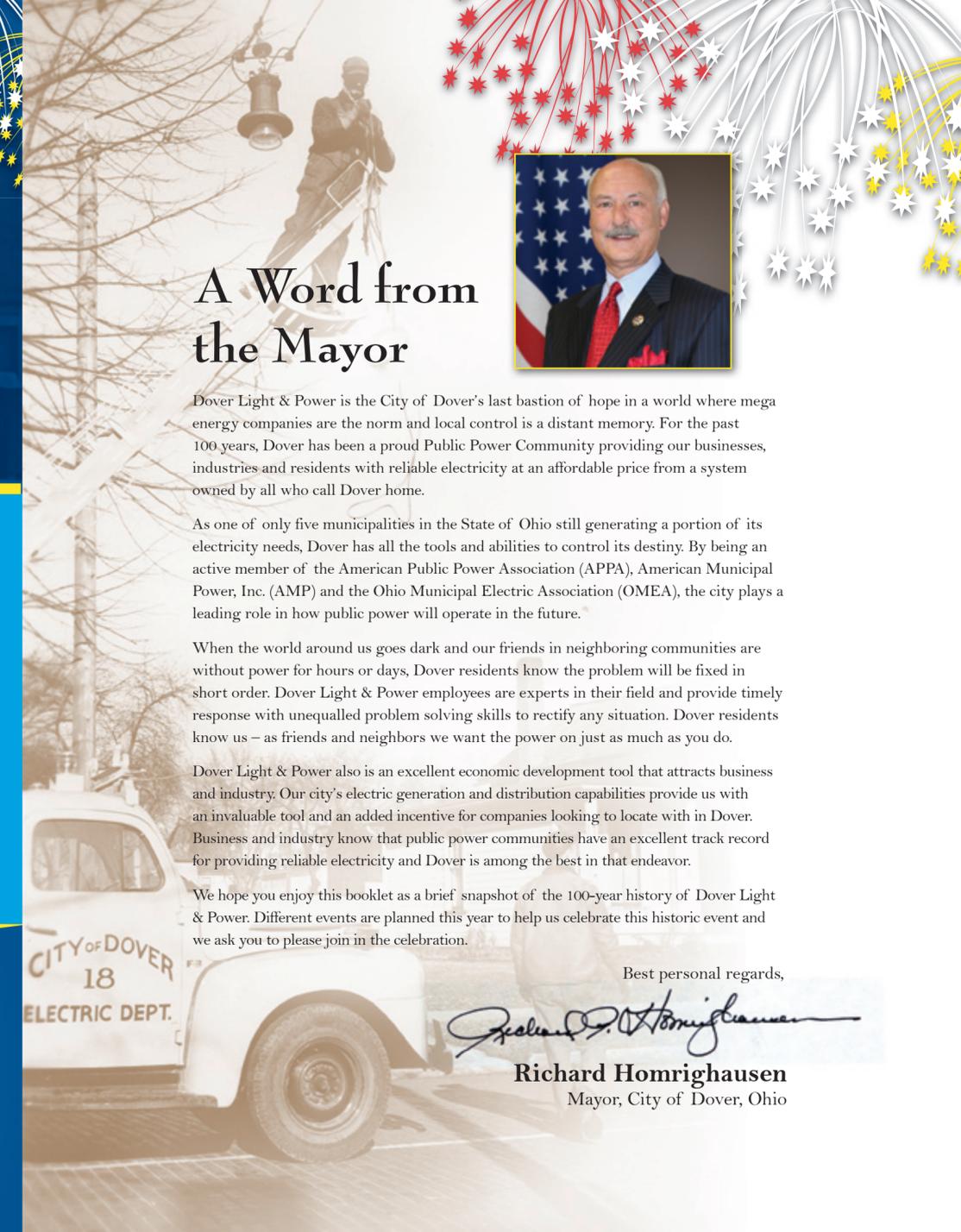
When the world around us goes dark and our friends in neighboring communities are without power for hours or days, Dover residents know the problem will be fixed in short order. Dover Light & Power employees are experts in their field and provide timely response with unequalled problem solving skills to rectify any situation. Dover residents know us – as friends and neighbors we want the power on just as much as you do.

Dover Light & Power also is an excellent economic development tool that attracts business and industry. Our city's electric generation and distribution capabilities provide us with an invaluable tool and an added incentive for companies looking to locate with in Dover. Business and industry know that public power communities have an excellent track record for providing reliable electricity and Dover is among the best in that endeavor.

We hope you enjoy this booklet as a brief snapshot of the 100-year history of Dover Light & Power. Different events are planned this year to help us celebrate this historic event and we ask you to please join in the celebration.

Best personal regards,

Richard Homrighausen
 Mayor, City of Dover, Ohio





Downtown Dover, circa 1900

1898 - 1908

Ten year wait

Though Dover voters supported the establishment of a city-owned light plant, Tuscarawas County Electric Light & Power did what they could to hold up the project in court. A 10-year legal battle ensued, resulting in Dover resubmitting a \$35,000 bond for the light plant, which was approved by voters.

In the meantime, the Tuscarawas County plant was running newspaper ads against the city's efforts to control its own power. Even though the bonds were passed, it wasn't until 1908 that the city was able to find a buyer.

1898

Under its own power

At the turn of the century, the privately owned Tuscarawas County Electric Light & Power Company was charging the City of Dover \$54 per year to provide power to the city's 130 streetlights. Outraged over a proposed increase in the streetlight fee, Dover voted to separate themselves from the electric provider and build a city-owned light plant.

Though the city still owed \$110,000 in bonds issued for the city's water system, schools and other endeavors, the city issued bonds for an additional \$15,000 to fund the development of the light plant. The passage of the issue meant that the sanitary sewer system project was put on hold and residents would continue to use outhouses.



The first gas engine, installed in 1909.

1909

Dark times

On December 1, 1909, the contract with the county light plant expired and the downtown lights were shut off. Cars, which would be equipped with headlights, were not yet a means of travel, so residents had to dig up their old gas lanterns to use on their horse-drawn buggies.

1910

More power!

Using natural gas from East Central Ohio Gas to drive small dynamo generators, the newly built Dover Municipal Light Plant was able to restore power to the lights along the streets after more than two months of darkness. Demand for electricity throughout Dover was quickly growing and city council issued another bond for \$15,000 to start supplying residential and commercial buildings with power.

Service Truck, circa 1920



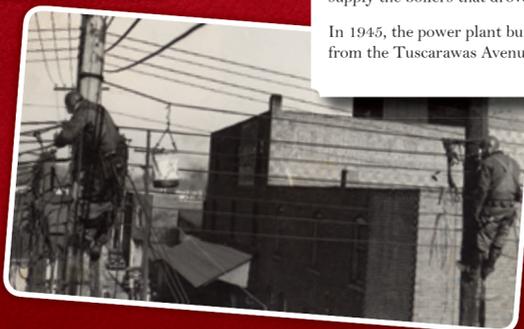
One of the earliest street lights in Dover.

1930 - 1938

Depression & Progression

Despite the country's immersion in the Great Depression, Dover's electrical needs continued to grow and require updates. Collections for electrical service grew to record numbers, reaching \$8,600 in February 1932.

In 1935, the power plant laid submarine power lines across the Tuscarawas River. In 1938, another turbo-generator with a 400-pound boiler, switchboard and other new equipment was installed.



New pole on Cherry Alley by Scibort Printing Co., circa 1930s.



Looking east on Third Street from Factory Street (Tuscarawas Ave.) Dover, circa 1920s.

1919

A brighter future

Advances in generator technologies meant the gas-driven generators had to be replaced with Uniflow Steam Engines. Financing for these new engines was achieved through a new \$100,000 bond issue approved by a special election in December.

With a wide base of support from industries, citizens and political leaders, the large voter turnout passed the bond issue by a margin of 13 to 1.

Steam driven engine, installed in the 1920s.

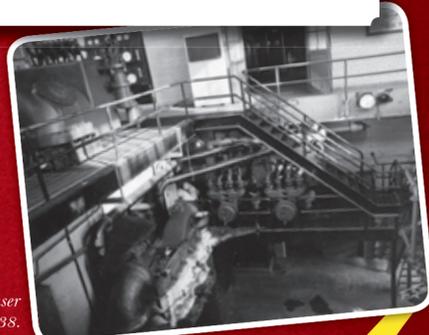


1925 - 1927

Demand grows

It was a time of great growth and technological advancements in the United States. Demand for reliable electricity also was growing and Dover continued to upgrade generators to meet the needs of residents and businesses.

In 1925, the first steam driven turbo-generator was installed along with a switchboard. Less than two years later a second steam turbo-generator was installed, along with underfed stokers.



A view inside the condenser room, circa 1938.

1945

Recapturing the river

The Dover Dam, which was completed in 1937, ensured protection from flooding for much of the area. However, the dam significantly decreased the flow rate of the river downstream where the power plant relied on river water to supply the boilers that drove the generators.

In 1945, the power plant built a small dam just downstream from the Tuscarawas Avenue bridge to increase water flow.



New switch gear installed in 1955.

1945 - 1955

The Big Surge

A new era had dawned in America after World War II. Veterans returned from the war causing a substantial increase in the workforce, residential growth and, eventually, more children entering the schools. This growth would soon require bigger schools, factories and more housing throughout the city. Within a decade, a new 400-pound boiler, a 7,000 KW turbo-generator, switchboard and submarine cable were installed.

The boilerhouse was added in the 1950s to accommodate the three 400-pound boilers.



1961 - 1965

A Back-up Plan

Though advancements were making electrical service more reliable, the city had to develop a way to ensure the power plant and Union Hospital had power in case of an emergency outage.

In 1961, a boiler capable of producing 165,000 pounds of pressure per hour boiler was installed with auxiliary equipment. In 1965, a 2,500 KW diesel generator was installed exclusively for the light plant and Union Hospital. During this time, work was completed on the new downtown streetlights and poles.

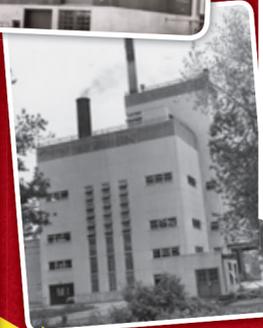
1966

The city joins the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA), a legislative liaison to 81 Ohio community owned-and-operated municipal electric systems. OMEA serves to protect the independence and constitutional rights of Ohio municipal electric systems.

1968 - 1974

An 18,500 KW turbo-generator was installed along with the first 12 KV distribution feeder that supplied power to Union Hospital and the entire Southside of the city.

Construction completed on a the new boilerhouse in 1961.



Workers preparing for new boiler, August 1960.



Downtown Dover, 1954

1980 - 1985

Digital Age

Changing lights throughout the city to high pressure sodium bulbs in 1980 helped lower the cost of energy used by the city. However, it wasn't until the power plant went digital that it was able to truly monitor, track and report, very precisely, the usage of electricity throughout the city.

In 1985, Dover Light & Power became the first city in Ohio to install fiber-optic cable as a communication link between the light plant, south substation and Shenango Furnace Company. This upgrade included the SCADA System (a digital monitoring system) for controlling circuits and breakers throughout the entire city.



1987 - 1991

Heading North

As Dover's population continued to grow, expansion to the north increased. A 69,000-volt line was extended 2.5 miles north from the plant. This required an energized north substation to help support the increased electrical loads. In 1989, while the city began planning for expansions at the light plant, construction began on an 18 MW gas turbine for emergency and peak usage demands.

Also during this time, the city began compiling studies, permits and economic evaluations to determine the need to expand the light and power plant, however, these plans were scrapped in 1991.

1996

Partnering with AMP

The city joined American Municipal Power - Ohio (AMPO) to lower costs and increase the reliability of their power supply. Today, AMP has grown to serve 128 public power communities in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia. The partnership helped the city develop and implement electric and natural gas aggregation programs, review and negotiate energy contracts, and evaluate and implement energy supply alternatives for local businesses, industries and governments.

1999 - 2002

Six 1.8 MX generators were installed at the North Intertie Substation in a joint venture with American Municipal Power-Ohio, Dover and numerous municipalities. The south substation was taken out of service after a new substation was built on Progress Street.

As the city continued to grow to the north, a 12,000 volt addition was added to the North Intertie Substation.



Modern-day Dover



2007

Cleaner Energy

Staying far ahead of the latest standards in emission control, a new filtration system (called a Baghouse) was installed to catch particulates produced from burning coal that powered the steam generators. This addition made Dover's power plant one of the cleanest coal-burning energy producers in Ohio.

To allow growth to the southwest, the South Substation was rebuilt and put on line for distribution. This was done in conjunction with a major expansion at Dover's Wastewater Plant, which required a new power supply and backup.

2008

Further advancement in conservation efforts inspired the replacement of downtown lights from mercury vapor to metal halide. The new lights use 38% less energy.

2009

The beginning of a new generation

Construction began on the new I-77 exit ramp to the north end of the city ushering unprecedented opportunity for business and residential growth. This year also brought the end of a by-gone era when Dover's last two 4,000 volt circuits, which been in use for about 70 years, were turned off. The light and power plant continues to test new technologies, such as LED lighting options, to determine the best energy solutions for the city.

Crews work to update lines running from the power plant on East Broadway.



The SCADA System helps monitor power usage throughout the city.

