

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following abbreviations and acronyms may be used in these financial statements to identify American Transmission Systems, Incorporated and its current and former affiliated companies:

ATSI	American Transmission Systems, Incorporated, formerly a direct subsidiary of FE that became a subsidiary of FET in April 2012, which owns and operates transmission facilities
CEI	The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, an Ohio electric utility operating affiliated company
FE	FirstEnergy Corp., a public utility holding company
FE Board	The Board of Directors of FirstEnergy Corp.
FENOC	Energy Harbor Nuclear Corp. (formerly known as FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company), a subsidiary of EH, which operates NG's nuclear generating facilities
FES	Energy Harbor LLC. (formerly known as FirstEnergy Solutions Corp.), a subsidiary of EH, which provides energy-related products and services
FESC	FirstEnergy Service Company, which provides legal, financial and other corporate support services
FET	FirstEnergy Transmission, LLC, formerly known as Allegheny Energy Transmission, LLC, which is the parent of ATSI, KATCo, MAIT and TrAIL and has a joint venture in PATH
FirstEnergy	FirstEnergy Corp., together with its consolidated subsidiaries
GPU	GPU, Inc., former parent of JCP&L, ME and PN, that merged with FE on November 7, 2001
JCP&L	Jersey Central Power & Light Company, a New Jersey electric utility operating affiliated company
MAIT	Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC, a subsidiary of FET, formed to own and operate transmission facilities
ME	Metropolitan Edison Company, a Pennsylvania electric utility operating affiliated company
MP	Monongahela Power Company, a West Virginia electric utility operating affiliated company
OE	Ohio Edison Company, an Ohio electric utility operating affiliated company
Ohio Companies	CEI, OE and TE
PATH	Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline, LLC, a joint venture between FE and a subsidiary of AEP
PE	The Potomac Edison Company, a Maryland and West Virginia electric utility operating affiliated company
Penn	Pennsylvania Power Company, a Pennsylvania electric utility operating subsidiary of OE
PN	Pennsylvania Electric Company, a Pennsylvania electric utility operating subsidiary
TE	The Toledo Edison Company, an Ohio electric utility operating affiliated company
TrAIL	Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company, a subsidiary of FET, which owns and operates transmission facilities
Utilities	OE, CEI, TE, Penn, JCP&L, ME, PN, MP, PE and WP
WP	West Penn Power Company, a Pennsylvania electric utility operating subsidiary

The following abbreviations and acronyms may be used to identify frequently used terms in these financial statements:

ADIT	Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes
AEP	American Electric Power Company, Inc.
AFUDC	Allowance for Funds Used During Construction
AMT	Alternative Minimum Tax
ARO	Asset Retirement Obligation
ASC	Accounting Standard Codification
ASU	Accounting Standards Update
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
D.C. Circuit	United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
EEl	Edison Electric Institute
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ERO	Electric Reliability Organization
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FPA	Federal Power Act
GAAP	Accounting Principles Generally Accepted in the United States of America
HB 6	Ohio House Bill 6

IRS	Internal Revenue Service
kV	Kilovolt
LOC	Letter of Credit
MISO	Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
MVP	Multi-value Project
N.D. Ohio	Northern District of Ohio
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NOL	Net Operating Loss
NOPR	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
OAG	Ohio Attorney General
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PJM	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
PJM Region	The aggregate of the zones within PJM
PJM Tariff	PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff
PPUC	Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
PUCO	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
RFC	Reliability <i>First</i> Corporation
ROE	Return on Equity
RTEP	Regional Transmission Expansion Plan
RTO	Regional Transmission Organization
SAB	SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin
S.D. Ohio	Southern District of Ohio
SEC	United States Securities and Exchange Commission
Sixth Circuit	United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Tax Act	Tax Cuts and Jobs Act adopted December 22, 2017
TO	Transmission Owner

## **Report of Independent Auditors**

To Management and the Board of Directors  
Of American Transmission Systems, Incorporated

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (the "Company"), which comprise the balance sheets as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of income, of common stockholder's equity, and of cash flows for the years then ended.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### ***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of American Transmission Systems, Incorporated as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Cleveland, Ohio  
February 25, 2021

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

<i>(In millions)</i>	For the Years Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
<b>REVENUES</b>	\$ 809	\$ 758
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>		
Other operating expenses	118	112
Provision for depreciation	143	129
Deferral of regulatory liabilities, net	7	7
General taxes	208	186
Total operating expenses	476	434
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	333	324
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):</b>		
Miscellaneous income, net	3	2
Pension and OPEB mark-to-market adjustment	(19)	(30)
Interest expense	(65)	(63)
Capitalized financing costs	12	12
Total other expense	(69)	(79)
<b>INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>	264	245
<b>INCOME TAXES</b>	53	48
<b>NET INCOME</b>	\$ 211	\$ 197

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**BALANCE SHEETS**

<i>(In millions)</i>	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 150	\$ —
Receivables-		
Affiliated companies	22	3
Other, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$3 in 2020 and \$4 in 2019	33	24
Notes receivable from affiliated companies	—	93
Prepaid taxes and other	3	3
	<u>208</u>	<u>123</u>
<b>UTILITY PLANT:</b>		
In service	5,382	5,075
Less — Accumulated provision for depreciation	1,226	1,113
	<u>4,156</u>	<u>3,962</u>
Construction work in progress	222	185
	<u>4,378</u>	<u>4,147</u>
<b>DEFERRED CHARGES AND OTHER ASSETS:</b>		
Property taxes	225	221
Operating lease right-of-use asset	413	414
Other	8	6
	<u>646</u>	<u>641</u>
	<u>\$ 5,232</u>	<u>\$ 4,911</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND CAPITALIZATION</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts payable - affiliated companies	\$ 6	\$ 41
Short-term borrowings -		
Affiliated companies	287	—
Other	150	—
Accrued taxes	209	188
Accrued interest	22	22
Other current liabilities	6	7
	<u>680</u>	<u>258</u>
<b>CAPITALIZATION:</b>		
Common stockholder's equity-		
Common stock, no par value, 850 shares authorized - 1 share outstanding	1,267	1,267
Retained earnings	612	706
Total common stockholder's equity	<u>1,879</u>	<u>1,973</u>
Long-term debt and other long-term obligations	1,291	1,290
	<u>3,170</u>	<u>3,263</u>
<b>NONCURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accumulated deferred income taxes	548	500
Property taxes	225	221
Regulatory liabilities	167	228
Noncurrent operating lease obligation	407	408
Other	35	33
	<u>1,382</u>	<u>1,390</u>
<b>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (NOTE 9)</b>		
	<u>\$ 5,232</u>	<u>\$ 4,911</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**STATEMENTS OF COMMON STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY**

<i>(In millions, except share amounts)</i>	Common Stock		Retained Earnings	Total Stockholder's Equity
	Number of Shares	Carrying Value		
<b>Balance, January 1, 2019</b>	1	\$ 1,266	\$ 509	\$ 1,775
Net income			197	197
Consolidated tax benefit allocation		1		1
<b>Balance, December 31, 2019</b>	1	\$ 1,267	\$ 706	\$ 1,973
Net income			211	211
Cash dividends declared on common stock			(305)	(305)
<b>Balance, December 31, 2020</b>	1	\$ 1,267	\$ 612	\$ 1,879

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

<i>(In millions)</i>	For the Years Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Net income	\$ 211	\$ 197
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash from operating activities-		
Depreciation and amortization	155	146
Pension and OPEB mark-to-market adjustment	19	30
Deferred income taxes and investment tax credits, net	42	45
Transmission revenue collections, net	(38)	(20)
Allowance for funds used during construction - equity	(9)	(9)
Changes in current assets and liabilities-		
Receivables	(27)	31
Accounts payable	(62)	(8)
Accrued taxes	21	16
Accrued interest	—	1
Other current liabilities	1	—
Other	(9)	(12)
Net cash provided from operating activities	304	417
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
New financing-		
Long-term debt	—	100
Short-term borrowings		
Affiliated companies, net	287	—
Other, net	150	—
Common stock dividend payments	(305)	—
Other	(2)	—
Net cash provided from financing activities	130	100
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Property additions	(354)	(424)
Loans to affiliated companies, net	93	(59)
Asset removal costs	(25)	(34)
Other	2	—
Net cash used for investing activities	(284)	(517)
Net change in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	150	—
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at beginning of period	—	—
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at end of period	\$ 150	\$ —
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:</b>		
Cash paid (received) during the year -		
Interest (net of amounts capitalized)	\$ 61	\$ 58
Income taxes, net of refunds	\$ 17	\$ (5)

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, (Continued)**

**1. ORGANIZATION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

Unless otherwise indicated, defined terms and abbreviations used herein have the meanings set forth in the accompanying Glossary of Terms.

ATSI is a wholly owned subsidiary of FET, a direct subsidiary of FE. ATSI owns high-voltage transmission facilities consisting of approximately 7,890 circuit miles of transmission lines with nominal voltages of 345 kV, 138 kV and 69 kV in the PJM region. On June 1, 2011, ATSI successfully integrated into PJM. ATSI plans, operates, and maintains its transmission system in accordance with NERC reliability standards, and other applicable regulatory requirements. In addition, ATSI follows GAAP and complies with the regulations, orders, policies and practices prescribed by FERC and applicable state regulatory authorities, including the PPUC and the PUCO.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make periodic estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from these estimates. The reported results of operations are not necessarily indicative of results of operations for any future period. ATSI has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through February 25, 2021, the date the financial statements were issued.

*COVID-19*

The outbreak of COVID-19 is a global pandemic. FirstEnergy is continuously evaluating the global pandemic and taking steps to mitigate known risks. FirstEnergy is actively monitoring the continued impact COVID-19 is having on its customers' receivable balances, which include increasing arrears balances since the pandemic has begun. FirstEnergy has incurred, and it is expected to incur for the foreseeable future, incremental uncollectible and other COVID-19 pandemic related expenses. COVID-19 related expenses consist of additional costs that FirstEnergy is incurring to protect its employees, contractors and customers, and to support social distancing requirements. These costs include, but are not limited to, new or added benefits provided to employees, the purchase of additional personal protection equipment and disinfecting supplies, additional facility cleaning services, initiated programs and communications to customers on utility response, and increased technology expenses to support remote working, where possible. The full impact on FirstEnergy's business from the COVID-19 pandemic, including the governmental and regulatory responses, is unknown at this time and difficult to predict. FirstEnergy provides a critical and essential service to its customers and the health and safety of its employees, contractors and customers is its first priority. FirstEnergy is continuously monitoring its supply chain and is working closely with essential vendors to understand the continued impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on its business, however, FirstEnergy does not currently expect disruptions in its ability to deliver service to customers or any material impact on its capital spending plan.

FirstEnergy continues to effectively manage operations during the pandemic in order to provide critical service to customers and believes it is well positioned to manage through the economic slowdown. FirstEnergy Distribution and Transmission revenues benefit from geographic and economic diversity across a five-state service territory, which also allows for flexibility with capital investments and measures to maintain sufficient liquidity over the next twelve months. However, the situation remains fluid and future impacts to FirstEnergy that are presently unknown or unanticipated may occur. Furthermore, the likelihood of an impact to FirstEnergy, and the severity of any impact that does occur, could increase the longer the global pandemic persists.

**REVENUES AND RECEIVABLES**

Under a formula rate mechanism approved by FERC, ATSI makes annual filings in order to recover incurred costs and an allowed return. An initial rate filing is made for each calendar year using estimated costs, which is used to determine the initial billings to customers. All prudently incurred allowable operation and maintenance costs, a return earned on rate base and income taxes are recovered or refunded through a subsequent true-up mechanism. As such, ATSI recognizes revenue as it incurs recoverable costs and earns the allowed return. Any differences between revenues earned based on actual costs and the amounts billed based on estimated costs are recognized as a regulatory asset or liability, and will be recovered or refunded, respectively, in subsequent periods.

Other receivables include PJM receivables resulting from transmission sales. ATSI's credit risk on PJM receivables is reduced due to the nature of PJM's settlement process whereby members of PJM legally agree to share the cost of defaults and as a result there is no allowance for doubtful accounts.

**ACCOUNTING FOR THE EFFECTS OF REGULATION**

ATSI accounts for the effects of regulation through the application of regulatory accounting since its rates are established by a third-party regulator with the authority to set rates that bind customers, are cost-based and can be charged to and collected from customers.

ATSI records regulatory assets and liabilities that result from the regulated rate-making process that would not be recorded under GAAP for non-regulated entities. These assets and liabilities are amortized in the Statements of Income concurrent with the recovery or refund through customer rates. ATSI believes that it is probable that its regulatory assets and liabilities will be

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, (Continued)**

recovered and settled, respectively, through future rates. ATSI nets its regulatory assets and liabilities based on federal and state jurisdictions. ATSI considers the entire regulatory asset balance as the unit of account for the purposes of balance sheet classification rather than the next years recovery and as such net regulatory assets and liabilities are presented in the non-current section on the ATSI Balance Sheets.

Management assesses the probability of recovery of regulatory assets at each balance sheet date and whenever new events occur. Factors that may affect probability relate to changes in the regulatory environment, issuance of a regulatory commission order or passage of new legislation. Management applies judgment in evaluating the evidence available to assess the probability of recovery of regulatory assets from customers, including, but not limited to evaluating evidence related to precedent for similar items at the Company and information on comparable companies within similar jurisdictions, as well as assessing progress of communications between the Company and regulators. Certain of these regulatory assets, totaling approximately \$114 million and \$108 million as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively, are recorded based on prior precedent or anticipated recovery based on rate making premises without a specific order and are being sought for recovery in a formula rate amendment filing at ATSI that is pending before FERC. See Note 8, "Regulatory Matters" for additional information.

The following table provides information about the composition of net regulatory assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019, and the changes during the year ended December 31, 2020:

<b>Net Regulatory Assets (Liabilities) by Source</b>	<b>December 31,</b>		<b>Change</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	
	<i>(In millions)</i>		
Customer payables for future income taxes	\$ (325)	\$ (324)	\$ (1)
MISO exit fee deferral	78	74	4
Asset removal costs	7	(12)	19
Deferred transmission costs	69	31	38
Other	4	3	1
Net Regulatory Liabilities included on the Balance Sheets	<u>\$ (167)</u>	<u>\$ (228)</u>	<u>\$ 61</u>

The following is a description of the regulatory assets and liabilities described above:

**Customer payables for future income taxes** - Reflects amounts to be recovered or refunded through future rates to pay income taxes that become payable when rate revenue is provided to recover items such as AFUDC-equity and depreciation of property, plant and equipment for which deferred income taxes were not recognized for ratemaking purposes, including amounts attributable to tax rate changes such as the Tax Act. These amounts are being amortized over the period in which the related deferred tax asset reverse, which is generally over the expected life of the underlying asset. See Note 3, "Taxes" for further discussion on the Tax Act.

**MISO Exit Fee deferral** - Comprised of MISO exit fees, which are not earning a return. Recovery is subject to a current regulatory proceeding (see Note 8, "Regulatory Matters").

**Asset removal costs** - Primarily represents the rates charged to customers that include a provision for the cost of future activities to remove assets, including obligations for which an asset retirement obligation has been recognized, that are expected to be incurred at the time of retirement.

**Deferred transmission costs** - Primarily represents differences between revenues earned based on actual costs and the amounts billed. Amounts are recorded as a regulatory asset or liability, and recovered or refunded, respectively, in subsequent periods.

**PENSION AND OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

FirstEnergy recognizes a pension and OPEB mark-to-market adjustment for the change in the fair value of plan assets and net actuarial gains and losses annually in the fourth quarter of each fiscal year and whenever a plan is determined to qualify for a remeasurement. The remaining components of pension and OPEB expense, primarily service costs, interest on obligations, assumed return on assets and prior service costs, are recorded on a monthly basis.

Under the approved bankruptcy settlement agreement discussed above, upon emergence, FES and FENOC employees ceased earning years of service under the FirstEnergy pension and OPEB plans. The emergence on February 27, 2020, triggered a remeasurement of the affected pension and OPEB plans and as a result, FirstEnergy recognized a non-cash, pre-tax pension and OPEB mark-to-market adjustment of approximately \$423 million in the first quarter of 2020. The first quarter 2020 pension and OPEB mark-to-market adjustment primarily reflects a 38 bps decrease in the discount rate used to measure benefit obligations from December 31, 2019, partially offset by a slightly higher than expected return on assets. In the fourth quarter 2020, FirstEnergy recognized a \$54 million pension and OPEB mark-to-market adjustment, primarily reflecting a 29 bps

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, (Continued)**

decrease in the discount rate used to measure benefit obligations from February 27, 2020, partially offset by higher than expected return on assets. The annual pension and OPEB mark-to-market adjustments for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 were \$477 million (including the \$423 million in the first quarter of 2020 described above) and \$676 million.

During 2020 and 2019 ATSI's allocated amount of the pension and OPEB mark-to-market adjustments was \$19 million and \$30 million, respectively.

**PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

Property, plant and equipment reflects original cost, including payroll and related costs such as taxes, employee benefits, administrative and general costs, and interest costs incurred to place the assets in service. The costs of normal maintenance, repairs and minor replacements are expensed as incurred. ATSI recognizes liabilities for planned major maintenance projects as they are incurred.

ATSI provides for depreciation on a straight-line basis at various rates over the estimated lives of property included in plant in service. The annual composite rates for ATSI's transmission facilities were 2.7% and 2.6% in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

For the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, capitalized financing costs on ATSI's Statements of Income include \$9 million, respectively, of allowance for equity funds used during construction and \$3 million, respectively, of capitalized interest.

ATSI evaluates long-lived assets classified as held and used for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of the long-lived assets may not be recoverable. First, the estimated undiscounted future cash flows attributable to the assets is compared with the carrying value of the assets. If the carrying value is greater than the undiscounted future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized equal to the amount the carrying value of the assets exceeds its estimated fair value.

**INVESTMENTS**

All temporary cash investments purchased with an initial maturity of three months or less are reported as cash equivalents on the Balance Sheets, at cost, which approximates their fair market value. Investments other than cash and cash equivalents include notes receivable.

**NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

**Recently Adopted Pronouncements**

ASU 2018-15, "*Intangibles-Goodwill and Other-Internal-Use Software (Subtopic 350-40): Customer's Accounting for Implementation Costs Incurred in a Cloud Computing Arrangement That Is a Service Contract*" (Issued August 2018): ASU 2018-15 allows implementation costs incurred by customers in cloud computing arrangements to be deferred and recognized over the term of the arrangement, if those costs would be capitalized by the customers in a software licensing arrangement. This standard was adopted as of January 1, 2020, with no material impact to the financial statements.

ASU 2020-04, "*Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848): Facilitation of the Effects of Reference Rate Reform on Financial Reporting*" (Issued March 2020): ASU 2020-04 provides temporary optional expedients and exceptions to the current guidance on contract modifications to ease the financial reporting burdens related to the expected market transition from LIBOR and other interbank offered rates to alternative reference rates. FirstEnergy's \$3.5 billion Revolving Credit Facility bears interest at fluctuating interest rates based on LIBOR and contains provisions (requiring an amendment) in the event that LIBOR can no longer be used. As of December 31, 2020, none of the expedients discussed within this ASU have been utilized.

**Recently Issued Pronouncements** - The following new authoritative accounting guidance issued by the FASB has not yet been adopted. Unless otherwise indicated, ATSI is currently assessing the impact such guidance may have on its financial statements and disclosures, as well as the potential to early adopt where applicable. ATSI has assessed other FASB issuances of new standards not described below and has not included these standards based upon the current expectation that such new standards will not significantly impact ATSI's financing reporting.

ASU 2019-12, "*Simplifying the Accounting for Income Taxes*" (Issued in December 2019): ASU 2019-12 enhances and simplifies various aspects of the income tax accounting guidance including the elimination of certain exceptions related to the approach for intraperiod tax allocation, the methodology for calculating income taxes in an interim period and the recognition of deferred tax liabilities for outside basis differences. The new guidance also simplifies aspects of the accounting for franchise taxes and enacted changes in tax laws or rates and clarifies the accounting for transactions that result in a step-up in the tax basis of goodwill. The guidance will be effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2020, with early adoption permitted. FirstEnergy continues to evaluate the new guidance, but currently does not expect a material impact upon adopting this standard.

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, (Continued)**

**2. REVENUE**

ATSI accounts for revenues from contracts with customers under ASC 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. Revenue from leases, financial instruments, other contractual rights or obligations and other revenues that are not from contracts with customers are outside the scope of the standard and accounted for under other existing GAAP. ATSI has elected to exclude sales taxes and other similar taxes collected on behalf of third parties from revenue as prescribed in the new standard. As a result, tax collections and remittances within the scope of this election are excluded from recognition in the income statement and instead recorded through the balance sheet. Gross receipts taxes that are assessed on ATSI are not subject to the election and are included in revenue. ATSI has elected the optional invoice practical expedient for most of its revenues and utilizes the optional short-term contract exemption for transmission revenues due to the annual establishment of revenue requirements, which eliminates the need to provide certain revenue disclosures regarding unsatisfied performance obligations.

ATSI provides transmission infrastructure owned and operated by ATSI to transmit electricity from generation sources to distribution facilities. ATSI's transmission revenue is primarily derived from forward-looking formula transmission rates. Revenue requirements under forward-looking formula rates are updated annually based on a projected rate base and projected costs, which is subject to an annual true-up based on actual costs. Revenues and cash receipts for the stand-ready obligation of providing transmission service are recognized ratably over time.

For the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, revenues include transmission revenue from contracts with customers of \$804 million and \$754 million, respectively, and \$5 million and \$4 million, respectively, of other non-customer revenue. These amounts include approximately \$5 million and \$10 million, respectively, in reductions to revenue related to amounts subject to refund resulting from the Tax Act.

**3. TAXES**

ATSI records income taxes in accordance with the liability method of accounting. Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts recognized for tax purposes. Investment tax credits, which were deferred when utilized, are being amortized over the recovery period of the related property. Deferred income tax liabilities related to temporary tax and accounting basis differences and tax credit carryforward items are recognized at the statutory income tax rates in effect when the liabilities are expected to be paid. Deferred tax assets are recognized based on income tax rates expected to be in effect when they are settled.

ATSI is party to an intercompany income tax allocation agreement with FE that provides for the allocation of consolidated tax liabilities. Net tax benefits attributable to FirstEnergy, excluding any tax benefits derived from interest expense associated with acquisition indebtedness from the merger with GPU, are reallocated to the subsidiaries of FirstEnergy that have taxable income. That allocation is accounted for as a capital contribution to the company receiving the tax benefit.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the CARES Act, an economic stimulus package in response to the COVID-19 pandemic containing several corporate income tax provisions, including making remaining AMT credits immediately refundable; providing a 5-year carryback of NOLs generated in tax years 2018, 2019, and 2020, and removing the 80% taxable income limitation on utilization of those NOLs if carried back to prior tax years or utilized in tax years beginning before 2021; and temporarily liberalizing the interest deductibility rules under Section 163(j) of the Tax Act, by raising the adjusted taxable income limitation from 30% to 50% for tax years 2019 and 2020 and giving taxpayers the election of using 2019 adjusted taxable income for purposes of computing 2020 interest deductibility. ATSI does not currently expect the provisions of the CARES Act to have a material effect on current income tax expense or the realizability of deferred income tax assets.

On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, an additional stimulus package providing financial relief for individuals and small businesses. The Appropriations Act contains a variety of tax provisions, including full expensing of business meals in 2021 and 2022, extensions of various energy tax incentives (including the ITC), and expansion of the employee retention tax credit. ATSI does not currently expect the Appropriations Act to have a material tax impact.

On July 28, 2020, the IRS issued final regulations implementing interest expense deduction limitation rules under section 163(j) of the Internal Revenue Code. The final regulations changed certain rules on the computation of interest expense and limitation amount, as well as rules relevant to status as a regulated utility business and the allocation of consolidated group interest expense between utility and non-utility businesses. On January 6, 2021, the IRS released an additional set of final regulations under Section 163(j) primarily addressing partnership, real estate, and certain controlled foreign corporation issues, which do not materially impact ATSI.

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, (Continued)**

	<b>For the years ended December 31,</b>	
<b>INCOME TAXES:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<i>(In millions)</i>	
Currently receivable-		
Federal	\$ 10	\$ 4
State	1	(1)
	11	3
Deferred, net-		
Federal	39	37
State	3	8
	42	45
Total income taxes	\$ 53	\$ 48

ATSI's tax rates are affected by permanent items, such as AFUDC equity, as well as discrete items that may occur in any given period, but are not consistent from period to period. The following table provides a reconciliation of federal income tax expense at the federal statutory rate to the total income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019:

	<b>For the Years ended December 31,</b>	
<i>(In millions)</i>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Book income before income taxes	\$ 264	\$ 245
Federal income tax expense at statutory rate (21%)	\$ 55	\$ 51
Increases (reductions) in taxes resulting from-		
State income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit	4	4
AFUDC equity earnings flow-through	(1)	(1)
Excess deferred tax amortization due to the Tax Act	(4)	(8)
Valuation allowance on municipal NOLs	(1)	1
Other, net	—	1
Total income taxes	\$ 53	\$ 48
Effective income tax rate	20.1 %	19.6 %

ATSI's effective tax rate on pre-tax income for 2020 and 2019 was 20.1% and 19.6%, respectively. The increase in the effective tax rate was primarily due to a reduction in the tax benefit related to amortization of the regulatory liability associated with excess deferred income taxes. See Note 8 "Regulatory Matters," for additional detail).

Accumulated deferred income taxes as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, are as follows:

	<b>As of December 31,</b>	
<i>(In millions)</i>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Property basis differences	\$ 577	\$ 536
Regulatory asset/liability	38	30
Pension and OPEB	(7)	(7)
Loss carryforwards and AMT credits	(64)	(68)
Valuation allowance	3	9
Other	1	—
Net accumulated deferred income tax liabilities	\$ 548	\$ 500

ATSI has recorded as deferred income tax assets the effect of NOLs and tax credits that will more likely than not be realized through future operations and through the reversal of existing temporary differences. As of December 31, 2020, ATSI's loss

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carryforwards consisted of approximately \$263 million (\$55 million, net of tax) of Federal NOL carryforwards that begin to expire in 2031 and approximately \$435 million (\$8 million, net of tax) of state and local NOL carryforwards, of which approximately \$256 million (\$5 million, net of tax) is expected to be utilized based on current estimates and assumptions prior to expiration, which will begin in 2021.

ATSI accounts for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in its financial statements. A recognition threshold and measurement attribute are utilized for financial statement recognition and measurement of tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a company's tax return. For the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, ATSI did not record any unrecognized tax benefits, nor does ATSI have a reserve for any uncertain tax positions.

ATSI recognizes interest expense or income and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income taxes. That amount is computed by applying the applicable statutory interest rate to the difference between the tax position recognized and the amount previously taken or expected to be taken on the federal income tax return. During 2020 and 2019, ATSI did not record any interest related to uncertain tax positions, nor did ATSI have cumulative net interest payable recorded on its balance sheets.

For federal income tax purposes, ATSI files as a member of the FE consolidated group. Tax years 2018 and 2019 are currently under review by the IRS. ATSI has tax returns under review by state taxing authorities at the audit or appeals level for tax years 2013-2019.

*General Taxes*

General taxes associated with real and personal property for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 were \$208 million and \$186 million respectively.

#### **4. LEASES**

ATSI primarily leases fiber optics, land and other property and equipment under cancelable and noncancelable leases.

ATSI has a ground lease with OE, Penn, CEI and TE under an operating lease agreement. Land use is rented to ATSI under the terms and conditions of a ground lease. ATSI, OE, Penn, CEI, and TE reserve the right to use (and to permit authorized others to use) the land for any purpose that does not cause a violation of electrical safety code or applicable law, or does not impair ATSI's ability to satisfy its service obligations. Additional uses of such land for ATSI's facilities requires prior written approval from the applicable operating companies. ATSI purchases directly any new property acquired for transmission use. ATSI makes fixed quarterly lease payments of approximately \$5 million through December 31, 2049, unless terminated prior to maturity, or extended by ATSI for up to 10 additional successive periods of 50 years each.

ATSI adopted ASU 2016-02, "*Leases (Topic 842)*" on January 1, 2019, and elected a number of transitional practical expedients provided within the standard. These included a "package of three" expedients that must be taken together and allowed entities to (1) not reassess whether existing contracts contain leases, (2) carryforward the existing lease classification, and (3) not reassess initial direct costs associated with existing leases. In addition, ATSI elected the option to apply the requirements of the standard in the period of adoption (January 1, 2019) with no restatement of prior periods. Adoption of the standard on January 1, 2019, did not result in a material cumulative effect adjustment upon adoption. ATSI did not evaluate land easements under the new guidance as they were not previously accounted for as leases. ATSI also elected not to separate lease components from non-lease components as non-lease components were not material.

Leases with an initial term of 12 months or less are recognized as lease expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term and not recorded on the balance sheet. Most leases include one or more, options to renew and certain leases include options to terminate. The exercise of lease renewal options is at ATSI's sole discretion. Renewal options are included within the lease liability if they are reasonably certain based on various factors relative to the contract. Certain leases also include options to purchase the leased property. The depreciable life of leased assets and leasehold improvements are limited by the expected lease term, unless there is a transfer of title or purchase option reasonably certain of exercise.

Finance leases for assets used in regulated operations are recognized in ATSI's Statement of Income such that amortization of the right-of-use asset and interest on lease liabilities equals the expense allowed for ratemaking purposes. All operating lease expenses are recognized in Other operating expense. The components of lease expense were as follows:

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<i>(In millions)</i>	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Operating lease costs <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 24	\$ 27
Finance lease costs:		
Amortization of right-of-use assets	1	1
Interest on lease liabilities	—	—
Total finance lease cost	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total lease cost	<u>\$ 25</u>	<u>\$ 28</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes \$3 million and \$4 million of short-term lease costs as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Supplemental balance sheet information related to leases was as follows:

<i>(In millions)</i>	Financial Statement Line Item	As of December 31, 2020	As of December 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>			
Operating lease assets <sup>(1)</sup>	Deferred charges and other assets	\$ 413	\$ 414
Finance lease assets <sup>(2)</sup>	Property, plant and equipment	5	5
Total leased assets		<u>\$ 418</u>	<u>\$ 419</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<i>Current:</i>			
Operating	Other current liabilities	\$ 6	\$ 6
<i>Noncurrent:</i>			
Operating	Other noncurrent liabilities	407	408
Total leased liabilities		<u>\$ 413</u>	<u>\$ 414</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Operating lease assets are recorded net of accumulated amortization of \$1 million and an immaterial amount as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

<sup>(2)</sup> Finance lease assets are recorded net of accumulated amortization of \$4 million as of December 31, 2020 and 2019.

Lease terms and discount rates were as follows:

	As of December 31, 2020	As of December 31, 2019
<i>Weighted-average remaining lease terms (years)</i>		
Operating leases	79.83	79.83
Finance leases	15.52	16.27
<i>Weighted-average discount rate <sup>(1)</sup></i>		
Operating leases	5.00 %	5.00 %

<sup>(1)</sup> When an implicit rate is not readily determinable, an incremental borrowing rate is utilized, determining the present value of lease payments. The rate is determined based on expected term and information available at the commencement date.

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Supplemental cash flow information related to leases was as follows:

<u>(In millions)</u>	<u>For the Year Ended December 31, 2020</u>		<u>For the Year Ended December 31, 2019</u>	
<i>Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities</i>				
Operating cash flows from operating leases	\$	21	\$	21
Operating cash flows from finance leases		—		—
Finance cash flows from finance leases		—		—
<i>Right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for lease obligations:</i>				
Operating leases	\$	—	\$	—
Finance leases		—		—

Maturities of lease liabilities as of December 31, 2020, were as follows:

<u>(In millions)</u>	<u>Operating Leases</u>	
2021	\$	21
2022		21
2023		21
2024		21
2025		21
Thereafter		1,542
<i>Total lease payments</i>		1,647
Less imputed interest		(1,234)
<i>Total net present value</i>	\$	413

## 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

All borrowings with initial maturities of less than one year are defined as short-term financial instruments under GAAP and are reported as Short-term borrowings on the Balance Sheets at cost. Since these borrowings are short-term in nature, ATSI believes that their costs should approximate their fair market value. The following table provides the approximate fair value and related carrying value of long-term debt, which excludes net unamortized debt issuance costs and discounts:

<u>(In millions)</u>	<u>December 31, 2020</u>		<u>December 31, 2019</u>	
	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Long-term debt	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,458	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,473

The fair values of long-term debt reflect the present value of the cash outflows relating to those securities based on the current call price, the yield to maturity or the yield to call, as deemed appropriate at the end of each respective period. The yields assumed were based on securities with similar characteristics offered by corporations with credit ratings similar to those of ATSI. ATSI classified short-term borrowings, long-term debt as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019.

## 6. CAPITALIZATION

### COMMON STOCK

In addition to paying dividends from retained earnings, ATSI has authorization from the FERC to pay cash dividends to FirstEnergy from paid-in capital accounts, as long as its FERC-defined equity-to-total-capitalization ratio remains above 35%.

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**LONG-TERM DEBT AND OTHER LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

The following table presents outstanding long-term debt for ATSI as of December 31, 2020 and 2019:

<i>(Dollar amounts in millions)</i>	<b>As of December 31, 2020</b>		<b>As of December 31,</b>	
	<b>Maturity Date</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Unsecured notes - fixed rate	2022 - 2045	3.660% - 5.250%	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300
Unamortized debt discounts			(3)	(3)
Unamortized debt issuance costs			(6)	(7)
Total long-term debt and other long-term obligations			<u>\$ 1,291</u>	<u>\$ 1,290</u>

As of December 31, 2020, ATSI has a \$400 million scheduled debt repayment in 2022.

*Debt Covenant Default Provisions*

ATSI has various debt covenants under certain financing arrangements, including its revolving credit facility. The most restrictive of the debt covenants relate to the nonpayment of interest and/or principal on such debt and the maintenance of certain financial ratios. The failure by ATSI to comply with the covenants contained in any of its financing arrangements could result in an event of default, which may have an adverse effect on ATSI's financial condition.

Additionally, there are cross-default provisions in certain financing arrangements of FE and its subsidiaries, including ATSI. These provisions generally trigger a default in the applicable financing arrangement of an entity if it or any of its significant subsidiaries default under another financing arrangement in excess of a certain principal amount, typically \$100 million. Although such defaults by ATSI would generally cross-default FE financing arrangements containing these provisions, defaults by FE would generally not cross-default applicable ATSI financing arrangements but defaults by ATSI would generally cross-default applicable FET financing arrangements.

As of December 31, 2020, ATSI was in compliance with all debt covenant provisions.

**7. SHORT-TERM BORROWINGS AND BANK LINES OF CREDIT**

ATSI had \$437 million outstanding short-term borrowings as of December 31, 2020, and no outstanding short-term borrowings as of December 31, 2019.

*Revolving Credit Facility*

FET and certain of its subsidiaries, including ATSI, participate in a five-year syndicated revolving credit facility, which was amended on October 19, 2018, providing for aggregate commitments of \$1.0 billion (Facility), which are available through December 6, 2022. Under the amended Facility, FET and its subsidiaries may use borrowings for working capital and other general corporate purposes, including intercompany loans and advances by a borrower to any of its subsidiaries. Generally, borrowings under the Facility are available to each borrower separately and mature on the earlier of 364 days from the date of borrowing or the commitment termination date, as the same may be extended. The Facility contains financial covenants requiring each borrower to maintain a consolidated debt-to-total-capitalization ratio (as defined under the Facility) of no more than 65% for ATSI, MAIT and TrAIL, and 75% for FET, measured at the end of each fiscal quarter.

On November 17, 2020, FET and certain of its subsidiaries entered into an amendment to the FET credit facility. The amendment provides for modifications and/or waivers of: (i) certain representations and warranties, and (ii) certain affirmative and negative covenants, contained therein, which allowed FET to regain compliance with such provisions.

On November 23, 2020, FET and its regulated transmission subsidiary, ATSI, borrowed \$1 billion in the aggregate under the FET Revolving Facility, bringing the outstanding principal balance under the FET Revolving Facility to \$1 billion, with no remaining availability under the FET Revolving Facility. Borrowings were increased under the Revolving Facility as a proactive measure to increase the respective cash position and preserve financial flexibility.

Under the Facility, ATSI may borrow up to its sub-limit of \$500 million, none of which was available to ATSI as of January 31, 2021. ATSI has regulatory and other short-term debt limitations of \$500 million which includes amounts that may be borrowed under the regulated companies' money pool.

The Facility does not contain provisions that restrict the ability to borrow or accelerate payment of outstanding advances in the event of any change in credit ratings of the borrowers. Pricing is defined in "pricing grids," whereby the cost of funds borrowed under the Facility is related to the credit ratings of the company borrowing the funds. Additionally, borrowings under the Facility are subject to the usual and customary provisions for acceleration upon the occurrence of events of default, including a cross-default for other indebtedness in excess of \$100 million.

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***FirstEnergy Money Pools***

FE's utility and transmission operating subsidiary companies, including ATSI, also have the ability to borrow from each other and the holding company to meet their short-term working capital requirements. FESC administers this money pool and tracks surplus funds of FE and the respective regulated subsidiaries, as well as proceeds available from bank borrowings. Companies receiving a loan under the money pool agreement must repay the principal amount of the loan, together with accrued interest, within 364 days of borrowing the funds. The rate of interest is the same for each company receiving a loan from the regulated pool and is based on the average cost of funds available through the pool. The average interest rate for borrowings in 2020 was 0.89% per annum.

**8. REGULATORY MATTERS**

**FERC REGULATORY MATTERS**

Under the FPA, FERC regulates rates for transmission of electric power, accounting and other matters. With respect to its transmission services and rates, ATSI is subject to regulation by FERC. FERC regulations require ATSI to provide open access transmission service at FERC-approved rates, terms and conditions. ATSI's transmission facilities are subject to functional control by PJM and transmission service using ATSI's transmission facilities is provided by PJM under the PJM Tariff. The key terms of ATSI's rate orders in effect for transmission customer billings, which have been effective since January 1, 2015, include an actual (13 month average) capital structure and an allowed 10.38% ROE.

Federally enforceable mandatory reliability standards apply to the bulk electric system and impose certain operating, record-keeping and reporting requirements on ATSI. NERC is the ERO designated by FERC to establish and enforce these reliability standards, although NERC has delegated day-to-day implementation and enforcement of these reliability standards to six regional entities, including RFC. All of the facilities that FirstEnergy operates, including those of ATSI, are located within the RFC region. FirstEnergy actively participates in the NERC and RFC stakeholder processes, and otherwise monitors and manages its companies, including ATSI, in response to the ongoing development, implementation and enforcement of the reliability standards implemented and enforced by RFC.

FirstEnergy, including ATSI, believes that it is in material compliance with all currently effective and enforceable reliability standards. Nevertheless, in the course of operating its extensive electric utility systems and facilities, FirstEnergy, including ATSI, occasionally learns of isolated facts or circumstances that could be interpreted as excursions from the reliability standards. If and when such occurrences are found, FirstEnergy, including ATSI, develops information about the occurrence and develops a remedial response to the specific circumstances, including in appropriate cases "self-reporting" an occurrence to RFC. Moreover, it is clear that NERC, RFC and FERC will continue to refine existing reliability standards as well as to develop and adopt new reliability standards. Any inability on FirstEnergy's, including ATSI's, part to comply with the reliability standards for its bulk electric system could result in the imposition of financial penalties, or obligations to upgrade or build transmission facilities that could have a material adverse effect on ATSI's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***ATSI Transmission Formula Rate***

On May 1, 2020, ATSI filed amendments to its formula rate to recover regulatory assets for certain costs that ATSI incurred as a result of its 2011 move from MISO to PJM, certain costs allocated to ATSI by FERC for transmission projects that were constructed by other MISO transmission owners, certain income tax-related adjustments, including, but not limited to impacts from the Tax Act discussed further below, and certain costs for transmission-related vegetation management programs. The amount on ATSI's Balance Sheet for these regulatory assets was approximately \$114 million and \$108 million, as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively. Per prior FERC orders, ATSI included a "cost-benefit study" to support recovery of ATSI's costs to move to PJM, and the MISO transmission project costs that were allocated to ATSI. Certain intervenors filed protests of the formula rate amendments on May 29, 2020, and ATSI filed a reply on June 15, 2020. On June 30, 2020, FERC issued an initial order accepting the tariff amendments subject to refund, suspending the effective date for five months to be effective December 1, 2020, and setting the matter for hearing and settlement proceedings. ATSI is engaged in settlement negotiations with the other parties to the formula rate amendments proceeding.

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*FERC Actions on Tax Act*

On March 15, 2018, FERC initiated proceedings on the question of how to address possible changes to ADIT and bonus depreciation as a result of the Tax Act. Such possible changes could impact FERC-jurisdictional rates, including transmission rates. On November 21, 2019, FERC issued a final rule (Order No. 864). Order No. 864 requires utilities with transmission formula rates to update their formula rate templates to include mechanisms to (i) deduct any excess ADIT from or add any deficient ADIT to their rate base; (ii) raise or lower their income tax allowances by any amortized excess or deficient ADIT; and (iii) incorporate a new permanent worksheet into their rates that will annually track information related to excess or deficient ADIT. Per FERC directives, ATSI submitted its compliance filing on May 1, 2020. Certain intervenors filed protests of the compliance filing, to which ATSI responded. On October 28, 2020, FERC Staff requested additional information about ATSI's proposed rate base adjustment mechanism, and ATSI submitted the requested information on November 25, 2020. This compliance filing remains pending before FERC.

*Transmission ROE Methodology*

FERC's methodology for calculating electric transmission utility ROE has been in transition as a result of an April 14, 2017 ruling by the D.C. Circuit that vacated FERC's then-effective methodology. On May 21, 2020, FERC issued Opinion No. 569-A that changed FERC's ROE methodology. Under this methodology FERC established an ROE that is based on three financial models – discounted cash flow, capital-asset pricing, and risk premium – to calculate a composite zone of reasonableness. FERC noted that utilities could, in utility-specific proceedings, ask to have the expected earnings methodology included in calculating the utility's authorized ROE. FERC also noted that, going forward, it will divide that zone into three equal parts, to be used for high risk, normal risk, and low risk utilities. A given utility will be assigned to one of these three parts of the zone of reasonableness, and its ROE will be set at the median or midpoint of the other utilities that are in the applicable third of the zone. FirstEnergy filed a request for rehearing, which FERC denied on July 22, 2020. On November 19, 2020, FERC issued Opinion No. 569-B, which affirmed the Opinion No. 569-A rulings. FirstEnergy initiated, but subsequently withdrew, appeals of these orders. Appeals of Opinion Nos. 569, 569-A and 569-B are pending before the D.C. Circuit. Any changes to FERC's transmission rate ROE and incentive policies would be applied on a prospective basis.

On March 20, 2020, FERC initiated a rulemaking proceeding on the transmission rate incentives provisions of Section 219 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act. Initial comments were submitted July 1, 2020, and reply comments were filed on July 16, 2020. FirstEnergy participated through EEI and through a consortium of PJM Transmission Owners. This proceeding is pending before FERC.

**9. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Various federal, state and local authorities regulate ATSI with regard to air and water quality, hazardous and solid waste disposal, and other environmental matters. While ATSI's environmental policies and procedures are designed to achieve compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations, such laws and regulations are subject to periodic review and potential revision by the implementing agencies. ATSI cannot predict the timing or ultimate outcome of any of these reviews or how any future actions taken as a result thereof may materially impact its business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.

**OTHER LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

*United States v. Larry Householder, et al.*

On July 21, 2020, a complaint and supporting affidavit containing federal criminal allegations were unsealed against the now former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder and other individuals and entities allegedly affiliated with Mr. Householder. Also, on July 21, 2020, and in connection with the investigation, FirstEnergy received subpoenas for records from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the S.D. Ohio. FirstEnergy was not aware of the criminal allegations, affidavit or subpoenas before July 21, 2020. No contingency has been reflected in FirstEnergy's consolidated financial statements as a loss is neither probable, nor is a loss or range of a loss reasonably estimable.

*Legal Proceedings Relating to United States v. Larry Householder, et al.*

In addition to the subpoenas referenced above under “—United States v. Larry Householder, et. al.”, certain FE stockholders and FirstEnergy customers filed several lawsuits against FirstEnergy and certain current and former directors, officers and other employees, and the complaints in each of these suits is related to allegations in the complaint and supporting affidavit relating to HB 6 and the now former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder and other individuals and entities allegedly affiliated with Mr. Householder.

- *Owens v. FirstEnergy Corp. et al. and Frand v. FirstEnergy Corp. et al.* (Federal District Court, S.D. Ohio); on July 28, 2020 and August 21, 2020, purported stockholders of FE filed putative class action lawsuits against FE and certain FE officers, purportedly on behalf of all purchasers of FE common stock from February 21, 2017 through July 21, 2020,

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asserting claims under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder, alleging misrepresentations or omissions by FirstEnergy concerning its business and results of operations. These actions have been consolidated and a lead plaintiff has been appointed by the court.

- *Gendrich v. Anderson, et al. and Sloan v. Anderson, et al.* (Common Pleas Court, Summit County, OH); on July 26, 2020 and July 31, 2020, respectively, purported stockholders of FE filed shareholder derivative action lawsuits against certain FE directors and officers, alleging, among other things, breaches of fiduciary duty. These actions have been consolidated.
- *Miller v. Anderson, et al.* (Federal District Court, N.D. Ohio); *Bloom, et al. v. Anderson, et al.*; *Employees Retirement System of the City of St. Louis v. Jones, et al.*; *Electrical Workers Pension Fund, Local 103, I.B.E.W. v. Anderson et al.*; *Massachusetts Laborers Pension Fund v. Anderson et al.*; *The City of Philadelphia Board of Pensions and Retirement v. Anderson et al.*; *Atherton v. Dowling et al.*; *Behar v. Anderson, et al.* (U.S. District Court, S.D. Ohio, all actions have been consolidated); beginning on August 7, 2020, purported stockholders of FE filed shareholder derivative actions alleging the board and officers breached their fiduciary duties and committed violations of Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The cases in the Southern District of Ohio have been consolidated and co-lead plaintiffs have been appointed by the court.
- *Smith v. FirstEnergy Corp. et al.*, *Buldas v. FirstEnergy Corp. et al.*, and *Hudock and Cameo Countertops, Inc. v. FirstEnergy Corp. et al.* (Federal District Court, S.D. Ohio); on July 27, 2020, July 31, 2020, and August 5, 2020, respectively, purported customers of FirstEnergy filed putative class action lawsuits against FE and FESC, as well as certain current and former FirstEnergy officers, alleging civil Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act violations and related state law claims. These actions have been consolidated.
- *State of Ohio ex rel. Dave Yost, Ohio Attorney General v. FirstEnergy Corp., et al. and City of Cincinnati and City of Columbus v. FirstEnergy Corp.* (Common Pleas Court, Franklin County, OH); on September 23, 2020 and October 27, 2020, the OAG and the cities of Cincinnati and Columbus, respectively, filed complaints against several parties including FE, each alleging civil violations of the Ohio Corrupt Activity Act in connection with the passage of HB 6. The OAG sought a preliminary injunction to prevent each of the defendants, including FE, through the end of 2020, from: (i) contributing to any groups whose purpose is to keep or modify HB 6; (ii) making any public statements for or against any repeal or modification legislation concerning HB 6; (iii) lobbying, consulting, or advising on these matters; or (iv) contributing to any Ohio legislative candidates. The court denied the OAG's request for preliminary injunctive relief on October 2, 2020. On January 13, 2021, the OAG filed a motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against FirstEnergy seeking to enjoin FirstEnergy from collecting the Ohio Companies' decoupling rider. On January 31, 2021, FE reached a partial settlement with the OAG and the cities of Cincinnati and Columbus with respect to the temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction request and related issues. In connection with the partial settlement, the Ohio Companies filed an application on February 1, 2021, with the PUCO to set their respective decoupling riders (Rider CSR) to zero. On February 2, 2021, the PUCO approved the application of the Ohio Companies setting the rider to zero and no additional customer bills will include new decoupling rider charges after February 8, 2021. The cities of Dayton and Toledo have also been added as plaintiffs to the action. These actions have been consolidated.
- *Emmons v. FirstEnergy Corp. et al.* (Common Pleas Court, Cuyahoga County, OH); on August 4, 2020, a purported customer of FirstEnergy filed a putative class action lawsuit against FE, FESC, OE, TE and CEI, along with FES, alleging several causes of action, including negligence and/or gross negligence, breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and unfair or deceptive consumer acts or practices. On October 1, 2020, plaintiffs filed a First Amended Complaint, adding as a plaintiff a purported customer of FirstEnergy and alleging a civil violation of the Ohio Corrupt Activity Act and civil conspiracy against FE, FESC and FES.

The plaintiffs in each of the above cases, seek, among other things, to recover an unspecified amount of damages (unless otherwise noted). In addition, on August 10, 2020, the SEC, through its Division of Enforcement, issued an order directing an investigation of possible securities laws violations by FE, and on September 1, 2020, issued subpoenas to FE and certain FE officers. Further, in letters dated January 26 and February 22, 2021, staff of FERC's Division of Investigations notified FirstEnergy that the Division is conducting an investigation of FirstEnergy's lobbying and governmental affairs activities concerning HB 6, and staff directed FirstEnergy to preserve and maintain all documents and information related to the same as such have been developed as part of an ongoing audit that is being conducted by FERC's Division of Audits and Accounting. The outcome of any of these lawsuits, investigations and audit are uncertain and could have a material adverse effect on FE's or its subsidiaries' financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. No contingency has been reflected in FirstEnergy's consolidated financial statements as a loss is neither probable, nor is a loss or range of a loss reasonably estimable.

*Internal Investigation Relating to United States v. Larry Householder, et al.*

As previously disclosed, a committee of independent members of the Board of Directors is directing an internal investigation related to ongoing government investigations. In connection with FirstEnergy's internal investigation, such committee determined on October 29, 2020, to terminate FirstEnergy's Chief Executive Officer, Charles E. Jones, together with two other executives: Dennis M. Chack, Senior Vice President of Product Development, Marketing, and Branding; and Michael J. Dowling, Senior Vice President of External Affairs. Each of these terminated executives violated certain FirstEnergy policies and its code of conduct. These executives were terminated as of October 29, 2020. Such former members of senior management did not maintain and promote a control environment with an appropriate tone of compliance in certain areas of FirstEnergy's business, nor sufficiently promote, monitor or enforce adherence to certain FirstEnergy policies and its code of conduct. Furthermore, certain former

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members of senior management did not reasonably ensure that relevant information was communicated within our organization and not withheld from our independent directors, our Audit Committee, and our independent auditor. Among the matters considered with respect to the determination by the committee of independent members of the Board of Directors that certain former members of senior management violated certain FirstEnergy policies and its code of conduct related to a payment of approximately \$4 million made in early 2019 in connection with the termination of a purported consulting agreement, as amended, which had been in place since 2013. The counterparty to such agreement was an entity associated with an individual who subsequently was appointed to a full-time role as an Ohio government official directly involved in regulating the Ohio Companies, including with respect to distribution rates. FirstEnergy believes that payments under the consulting agreement may have been for purposes other than those represented within the consulting agreement. Immediately following these terminations, the independent members of its Board appointed Mr. Steven E. Strah to the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Christopher D. Pappas, a current member of the Board, to the temporary position of Executive Director, each effective as of October 29, 2020. Mr. Donald T. Misheff will continue to serve as Non-Executive Chairman of the Board. Additionally, on November 8, 2020, Robert P. Reffner, Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, and Ebony L. Yeboah-Amankwah, Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Ethics Officer, were separated from FirstEnergy due to inaction and conduct that the Board determined was influenced by the improper tone at the top. The matter is a subject of the ongoing internal investigation as it relates to the government investigations. Additionally, on February 17, 2021, the FE Board appointed Mr. John Somerhalder to the positions of Vice Chairperson of the FE Board and Executive Director of FE, each effective as of March 1, 2021. Mr. Misheff will continue to serve as Non-Executive Chairman of the FE Board and Mr. Pappas will continue to serve on the FE Board as an independent director. Mr. Somerhalder will help lead efforts to enhance FirstEnergy's reputation.

*Other Legal Matters*

There are various lawsuits, claims (including claims for asbestos exposure) and proceedings related to ATSI's normal business operations pending against ATSI. The loss or range of loss in these matters is not expected to be material to ATSI. The other potentially material items not otherwise discussed above are described under Note 8, "Regulatory Matters" of the Notes to Financial Statements.

ATSI accrues legal liabilities only when it concludes that it is probable that it has an obligation for such costs and can reasonably estimate the amount of such costs. In cases where ATSI determines that it is not probable, but reasonably possible that it has a material obligation, it discloses such obligations and the possible loss or range of loss if such estimate can be made. If it were ultimately determined that ATSI has legal liability or is otherwise made subject to liability, based on any of the matters referenced above, it could have a material adverse effect on ATSI's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

**10. TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATED COMPANIES**

In addition to the intercompany income tax allocation and short-term borrowing arrangement, ATSI has other operating expense, miscellaneous income and interest expense transactions with affiliated companies, primarily OE, CEI, TE, Penn and FESC. The primary affiliated-company transactions, including the effects of the transmission arrangements with OE, CEI, TE and Penn, during the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, are as follows:

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<i>(in millions)</i>	
Revenues	\$ 5	\$ 4
Operating Costs:		
Ground lease expense <sup>(1)</sup>	21	21
Support services	96	91
Miscellaneous income	3	2
Interest expense to affiliates	1	—

<sup>(1)</sup> See Note 4, Leases

FirstEnergy does not bill directly or allocate any of its costs to any subsidiary company. Costs are allocated from FESC. The majority of costs are directly billed or assigned at no more than cost. The remaining costs are for services that are provided on behalf of more than one company, or costs that cannot be precisely identified and are allocated using formulas developed by FESC. The current allocation or assignment formulas used and their bases include multiple factor formulas: each company's proportionate amount of FirstEnergy's aggregate direct payroll, number of employees, asset balances, revenues, number of customers, other factors and specific departmental charge ratios. Intercompany transactions with FirstEnergy and its other subsidiaries are generally settled under commercial terms within thirty days.

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Affiliate accounts receivable and accounts payable balances relate to intercompany transactions that have not yet settled through the FirstEnergy money pool (see Note 7, "Short-Term Borrowings and Bank Lines of Credit").

As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, ATSI has \$29 million of affiliated non-current liabilities related to pension and OPEB mark-to-market costs allocated to ATSI.

ATSI and FirstEnergy's other subsidiaries are parties to an intercompany income tax allocation agreement with FE and its other subsidiaries that provides for the allocation of consolidated tax liabilities. Net tax benefits attributable to FE are generally reallocated to the subsidiaries of FirstEnergy that have taxable income. That allocation is accounted for as a capital contribution to the company receiving the tax benefit (see Note 3, "Taxes").