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**Bennett L. Gaines**  
SVP, Corporate Services and CIO,  
FirstEnergy Service Company  
FirstEnergy Solutions Corporation  
Last Updated: 10/12/2017

**Executive Summary**  
Bennett Gaines serves as the Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and Chief Information Officer for FirstEnergy Service Company, a diversified energy company based in Akron, Ohio. He was elevated into the position in August 2012, six years after he joined the Company as Vice President, Shared Services and Administration and CIO. His responsibilities include Information Technology (IT), Supply Chain, Corporate Security and Flight Operations. Prior to joining FirstEnergy, Gaines served as the CIO at Cincinnati-based Cinergy Corporation, where he was responsible for the delivery of all IT services and telecommunications network operations. Gaines began his career in 1978, when he began a 13 year run at IBM Corporation as a Site Procurement Manager and Manufacturing Logistics Manager in Minnesota. He later worked for Hamilton-Indstrom Corporation, McKesson Corporation, EDS Corporation and Powergen.

**Personal Attributes and Interests**

- Gaines has lived and worked in Europe and Asia.
- In his free time he enjoys travel and is an avid golfer.
- He says that he enjoys Oak Bluffs vacations.
- Gaines has said that his dream job is the one he holds currently.
- Some of his favorite things include the movie "Schindler's List," the book "Native Son" by author Richard Wright, and his iPhone.
- He has been honored as one of the country's most influential black executives in technology by Career Communications Inc., publisher of US Black Engineer & IT Magazine in 2008.
- He was the 2004 Corporate Chair for Cinergy's United Way Campaign and is a graduate of Leadership Cincinnati.
- He has been the recipient of various awards, including Chapter Man of the Year, Chapter Superior Service Award, and numerous chapters.

**Current Focus**

- Primary Responsibilities:** Gaines is responsible for the delivery of Information Technology (IT) services, including FirstEnergy's corporate IT strategy and governance process, as well as the Company's communications and data network. He also is responsible for both physical and other Corporate Security, Flight Operations and Supply Chain.
- Information Sharing:** Gaines told a House subcommittee back in 2015 that information sharing between industry and the government is essential to maintaining a strong, effective and proactive approach to protecting our nation's vital communications networks from potential cyber attacks. "Gaines said in his prepared testimony, "With every operational and technical advance that is made to improve productivity -- including remote access, mobility and bring your own device policies -- organizations also are broadening their attack surface and exposure."
- Life Expectancy of Smart Meters:** Gaines made a surprising statement regarding the life expectancy of "smart" meters as compared to existing traditional meters while testifying before Congress back in 2015. "These devices are now computers, and so they have to be maintained. They don't have the life of an existing meter which is 20 to 30 years. These devices have a life of between 5 to 7 years. And so the challenge that the industry has is making sure they maintain that smart grid environment, not regret it," he said.
- Transformation:** "2016 was a successful and transformative year for FirstEnergy," CEO Chuck Jones told analysts on the Company's February 2017 earnings call. "Our long list of significant accomplishments includes achieving the operating earnings targets that we outlined to the financial community, making strong progress on our growth strategy, and launching a plan that supports our transition to a fully-regulated company."
- Optimistic Outlook:** "We are optimistic about the trends we are seeing in our distribution business and pleased with the continued progress of our Engaging the Future initiative," CEO Chuck Jones told analysts on the Company's July 2017 earnings call. "Together, we believe these regulated growth strategies are positioning our company for sustained customer service-oriented growth."
- Strategic Review:** "We've made a lot of progress since we announced our strategic review of this business back in November," CEO Chuck Jones told analysts on the Company's July 2017 earnings call. From the beginning, we have been focused on seeking solutions that are in the best interest of all constituents, including shareholders, creditors, employees, customers, and the communities where these plants are located."
  - "First, we continue to make progress on our negotiations for the sale of gas and hydro assets owned by Allegheny Energy Supply. As you'll recall, we entered into an agreement for the sale in January. In June, FERC granted approval of the transaction. However, the terms of the agreement have continued to evolve. The parties are exploring alternative structures in terms of pricing and closing. Based on current discussions and reflecting the impact of prevailing market conditions, CES received a \$0.19 per share non-cash impairment charge in the second quarter. We are targeting to close the transaction with revised terms in the second half of the year. In West Virginia, our Mon Power utility is working through the regulatory process to complete the purchase of Allegheny Energy Supply's 1,300 megawatt Pleasant plant. We responded to our recent FERC request for additional information, and we expect final approval from the West Virginia Public Service Commission and FERC by early 2018. When these two transactions are complete and we pay off all remaining long-term debt at Allegheny Energy Supply, including make-whole payments, we expect to realize approximately \$350 million in net proceeds."

BOARDROOM INSIDERS

LINKEDIN



**Bennett Gaines**  
Vice President, CIO at First Energy Corp  
Cleveland, Ohio Area · 10500+  
Current positions  
Vice President, CIO at First Energy Corp

Education  
Baldwin Wallace University

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**Background**

Experience  
Vice President, CIO  
First Energy Corp

Education  
Baldwin Wallace University  
1972 – 1976

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