

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

(X) Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.  
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person  
 WILSON, JOSEPH E.  
 C/O MUNCIE POWER PRODUCTS INC  
 POST OFFICE BOX 548  
 MUNCIE, IN 47308
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
 FRME
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)  
 ###-##-####
4. Statement for Month/Year  
 July 1997
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
 (X) Director ( ) 10% Owner ( ) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other  
 (specify below)  
 First Merchants Bank, N.A.
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  
 (X) Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 ( ) Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
Common Stock						1348.8848 (1)	D	

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
				Amount	A/D	Price	Exercisable Date	Expiration Date					
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	31.25	07-01-97	A	V	600	A	01-01-98	06-30-07	Common	600	2,400	D	

Explanation of Responses:  
 Reporting person resigned as a director of First Merchants Corporation effective midnight December 31, 1996.  
 (1) Includes 12.6044; 12.2805; 10.9189; and 10.6351 shares acquired in September 1996, December 1996; March 1997 and June 1997 respectively, under the First Merchants Corporation dividend reinvestment plan.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
 Joseph E. Wilson (Confirming Statement on File)  
 DATE  
 July 31, 1997