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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Allegheny Energy adds to support of mine cleanup project**

**Hagerstown, Md., January 24, 2000** – Allegheny Energy, in keeping with its commitment to environmental stewardship, has donated additional funds to help clean up drainage from an abandoned mine and move a coal refuse pile near Indian Head, Pa.

The Mountain Watershed Association will use the added funds toward completion of Sagamore Mine Drainage Remediation Project in the Indian Creek Watershed of Fayette County. The goal of the Sagamore project is to move and reclaim a 70,000-cubic-yard coal refuse pile and passively treat two mine drainage discharges generated from an abandoned underground mine.

“The refuse pile adjacent to Indian Creek will be moved away from the creek and the area will be reclaimed,” said Beverly Braverman, Executive Director of the Mountain Watershed Association. “The two mine drainage discharges will be conveyed through pipes to a compost wetland and settling basin for passive treatment.”

By moving the refuse pile, the project will eliminate a source of runoff into Indian Creek and reduce by 4,300 pounds a year the amount of iron discharged into the stream. “This will benefit the fish and aquatic life of the stream and improve the water resources of the entire Indian Creek Watershed,” Braverman said. “We are extremely grateful to Allegheny Energy for helping us to complete this project.”

Richard S. Herd, Allegheny’s Water Resources Manager, said the Company “is proud to support Mountain Watershed, whose efforts will remove and treat a source of pollution while improving and protecting the water quality of the watershed. We will continue to support worthwhile projects such as this one that improve the quality of life in the region where we all live and work.”

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The Mountain Watershed Association is a non-profit, community-based Pennsylvania corporation dedicated to preservation, conservation, and remediation in the Indian Creek Watershed. The 80,000-acre watershed extends from Jones Mills in Westmoreland County to the Youghiogheny River in Fayette County, Pa., and includes streams that have been heavily damaged by abandoned mine discharges. More information is available at the association's web site, [www.mtwatershed.com](http://www.mtwatershed.com).

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. The Allegheny Energy family includes *Allegheny Power*, which delivers electric energy to about three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; *Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC*, which operates and markets competitive retail and wholesale electric generation and operates regulated electric generation for its affiliates; and *Allegheny Ventures*, which actively invests in and develops energy-related and telecommunications projects. For more information, check our web site at [www.alleghenyenergy.com](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).