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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy supports two area Nature Conservancies

Hagerstown, Md., February 22, 2000 – Allegheny Energy, through its Environmental Stewardship Team, has donated funds to support The Nature Conservancy Maryland/D.C. Chapter and The Nature Conservancy West Virginia Chapter, and will serve as members of both groups' Corporate Councils.

The donation to The Nature Conservancy Maryland/D.C. Chapter will help the organization protect animals, plants, and natural communities for present and future generations. In 1999, through funds provided by its Corporate Council for the Environment, the chapter protected more than 2,500 acres of land at sites in Cranesville Swamp, the Nanticoke watershed, Nassawango Creek, and throughout Maryland. The funds also will be used to help the group finance field trips, work days, and open houses at the Conservancy's preserves around the state.

“We are pleased with Allegheny Energy's continued commitment to the Maryland/DC Chapter of the Nature Conservancy,” said Nat Williams, Vice President and Chapter Director. “With its leadership support, we can continue our tradition of protecting Maryland's precious natural heritage now and for generations to come.”

In West Virginia, our membership on the Conservancy's Corporate Council will aid funding for hands-on environmental research, education, communications, restoration, and stewardship opportunities for residents. Project-focused Eco-Grants have been set up to award community groups and middle, high school, and college students for their excellence in enhancing local science and stewardship projects. Grant applicants are given a targeted environmental site to improve, their works are judged, and winners receive grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000.

“We applaud Allegheny Energy's commitment to conservation,” said Jamie Serino, Director of Communications for the West Virginia organization. “By working with our Conservancy, Allegheny Energy makes a truly large effect on our state's ability to preserve our West Virginia heritage.” Since their inceptions, the two conservancies together have protected more than 40,000 acres in their respective states.

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“Allegheny Energy is extremely pleased to donate funds to help aid our area’s nature conservancies, and we are excited about serving on both chapters’ Corporate Councils,” said Richard S. Herd, Allegheny’s Water Resources Manager. “We will continue to demonstrate our commitment to environmental conservation through preservation of ecologically important areas in our region.”

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. The Allegheny Energy family includes *Allegheny Power*, which delivers 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 telecommunications and energy-related projects. For more information, check our web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com.

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