

Contact: Scott Shields
Phone: 301-790-6139
Pager: 1-877-831-6045
mshiel2@alleghenyenergy.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Allegheny Energy power station, West Virginia University
turn used steel drums into musical instruments**

Hagerstown, Md., April 17, 2000 – Allegheny Energy Supply, an Allegheny Energy company, has teamed up with West Virginia University in a recycling project that is music to the ears.

The Company's Harrison Power Station near Clarksburg, W.Va., is providing used 35-gallon and 55-gallon steel drums to the school's University Tuning Project (UTP), which converts them into musical instruments used in symphony orchestras around the world.

"This is a truly unique project," said George Dragich, Regional Director of Allegheny Energy Supply's Harrison-Rivesville Region. "It gives us the opportunity to recycle these steel drums, which otherwise would be discarded. At the same time, we are providing material that is turned into musical instruments to entertain people all over the world."

The UTP is an innovative program that benefits both music educators and performers. It was started in 1992 when steel band innovator Ellie Mannette joined the West Virginia University music faculty. Mannette, a craftsman skilled in tuning instruments, is responsible for creating the first musical instrument out of a 55-gallon steel drum. He brought his vision for the steel band to West Virginia University, where he is currently the director of Steel Band Studies. He is also president of *Mannette's Steel Drums* – an enterprise he formed with the university that produces instruments for programs and individuals throughout the world.

Today, a UTP production team of gifted craftspeople and musicians is turning out steel drum instruments that are renowned for their high quality craftsmanship, balanced tone, and unparalleled sound quality.

-more-

So far, Harrison Power Station has donated about 25 drums to the project. When the station receives a request from West Virginia University, the drums are emptied and delivered to the school. Using six-pound sledge hammers, in a smoothing and grooving process that takes three days to complete, the UTP production team transforms the donated barrels into steel drums. The team then evaluates and grades the drums. Those receiving the highest grades will be sold to colleges, public schools, private bands, and professional players across the country. Others, which may suffer from minor flaws, such as scratches and dents, are used in the UTP's training programs and workshops.

“We appreciate Allegheny Energy’s generosity and admire its commitment to the cultural education of our region’s musical students and the preservation of our environment,” Mannette said. “The donation supplies the UTP with the resource essential for building our instruments and maintaining our workshops and training programs. This allows UTP to fulfill its primary objective – educating pupils who desire to study music.”

Harrison Power Station is a 1,950-megawatt coal-fired facility located in Harrison County, W.Va. As part of its environmental stewardship program, the station constantly looks for opportunities to recycle materials used in the production of electricity. In addition to the steel drum project, the station recycles some of the byproducts of coal combustion into fill for mining reclamation or as skid control on state roads. More than 330 tons of scrap metal and approximately 2,500 pounds of paper are routinely recycled each year. The station also recycles oil filters, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, batteries, washing solvent, tires, and rubber products, the latter of which are shredded and reused in drainage and civil engineering projects.

“Recycling is only a part of our environmental stewardship efforts,” Dragich said. “Allegheny Energy knows that what is good for the environment is good for our Company and the region where we live and work.”

Allegheny Energy Supply, an Allegheny Energy company, operates and markets competitive retail and wholesale electric generation in Pennsylvania and throughout competitive markets in the eastern United States and operates regulated generation for its affiliates. For information, visit our web site at www.alleghenyenergysupply.com.