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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Allegheny Energy joins Environmental Millennium Initiative  
to expand and encourage stewardship efforts**

**Hagerstown, Md., April 19, 2000** – Allegheny Energy has joined with more than 30 other businesses and environmental organizations nationwide in the Environmental Millennium Initiative (EMI), whose goal is to promote and expand environmental stewardship projects.

As part of EMI, Allegheny Energy and other Initiative members are marking the 30th anniversary of Earth Day this year by showcasing their environmental achievements, expanding their environmental stewardship activities, and encouraging other partners to join the campaign.

“Our goal is to intensify environmental stewardship efforts in our region and beyond by participating in worthwhile projects locally and by encouraging a growing partnership among businesses, environmental organizations, and government,” said Larry Myers, Environmental Policy Director for Allegheny Energy. “We want to promote the projects we have undertaken to date and increase public involvement in future endeavors by calling attention to the environmental challenges facing our world today. Being a part of the Environmental Millennium Initiative allows us to work with like-minded businesses and organizations in helping make our goal a reality.”

Allegheny Energy has long been active in land management activities as part of its ongoing environmental stewardship program. Those activities include:

- Innovative, award-winning wetlands projects to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat at its Albright, W.Va., and Springdale, Pa., power stations.
- Cooperative agreements with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat on more than 5,000 acres of Company-owned property.
- An “open door public access” policy with respect to more than 35,000 acres of land holdings in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia for low-impact public recreation such as hunting, hiking, fishing, and bird watching.
- A management agreement with The Nature Conservancy of West Virginia to protect and maintain the environmentally sensitive Cornwell Cave in West Virginia, which is home to several endangered species of animals.
- A management agreement with property owners and conservation groups for development and management of wildlife habitat along miles of transmission line right-of-way.

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For 2000, Allegheny is exploring an agreement with the West Virginia Nature Conservancy to conduct ecological evaluations on major West Virginia properties including the Cheat River Canyon, Big Sandy, St. George, and Canaan Valley to identify ecological hot spots that may be critical for preservation and biodiversity of species.

The Company is also actively supporting the Environmental Millennium Initiative, organized last year with three primary objectives:

- To strengthen corporate and public commitment to environmental projects and activities by showing the value of such efforts;
- To strengthen communication between the business community and environmental organizations so that the environmental objectives of both become mutually supporting; and
- To strengthen and build partnerships on issues regarding management of land, water and other natural resources, thereby promoting stewardship and more sustainable development.

Additional information on the Initiative and its partners can be found on the World Wide Web at [www.environmental-mi.com](http://www.environmental-mi.com).

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](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).