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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Service Commission of West Virginia Approves Allegheny Energy Subsidiary's Purchase of Mountaineer Gas Company

Greensburg, Pa., May 15, 2000— Allegheny Power, the energy delivery company of Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: AYE), is very pleased with an order issued May 11, by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC) approving the Company's acquisition of Mountaineer Gas Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Corporation of America.

"The Public Service Commission's approval represents a significant milestone toward finalizing our acquisition of Mountaineer Gas," said Jay S. Pifer, President of Allegheny Power. "We are excited about this acquisition and bringing the benefits of this transaction to consumers, shareholders, and employees. Acquiring Mountaineer Gas positions Allegheny Power as a key player in the region's energy market and enables us to promote growth within West Virginia, and grow our customer base."

The acquisition of Mountaineer Gas Company—West Virginia's largest natural gas provider—will further advance Allegheny Power's high-level growth strategy and increase shareholder value by providing the Company with 200,000 new natural gas customers in a region where it already provides other energy services. This acquisition will grow Allegheny Power's service territory to more than 31,000 square miles and its customer base to approximately 1.6 million customers.

Pifer added, "We genuinely appreciate that the PSC commissioners approved this transaction just 16 weeks after the joint petition by Allegheny Power and Mountaineer Gas was filed. Additionally, we consider the conditions under which approval was granted to be reasonable."

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The PSC's positive decision, an important step toward the completion of the approval process, was granted with conditions that are both reasonable and acceptable to Allegheny. In summary, the issues covered rate stability, quality of service for customers, and an agreement no to close certain facilities for at least a two-year period.

In addition to the PSC, the Federal Trade Commission/Department of Justice has also approved the acquisition. It is expected that the final required regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission will be received soon and the closing date will occur sometime in the third quarter.

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost electric service to three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. For more information about Allegheny, visit our web site at www.alleghenypower.com.

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Certain statements above constitute forward-looking statements with respect to Allegheny Energy, Inc. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance, or achievements of Allegheny Energy to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors may affect Allegheny Energy's operations, markets, products, services, and prices. Such factors include, among others, the following: general and economic and business conditions; industry capacity; changes in technology, changes in political, social, and economic conditions; regulatory matters; integration of the operations of Allegheny Energy; regulatory conditions applicable to the transaction; the loss of any significant customers; and changes in business strategy or business plans.