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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy supports Marietta City Tree Commission

Hagerstown, Md., May 22, 2000 – In keeping with its commitment to protect and enhance the environment, Allegheny Energy has donated funds to the Marietta City Tree Commission to plant trees along the Ohio River in Marietta, Ohio.

The Tree Commission will use the contribution to plant trees from the sycamore, silver maple, and cottonwood families along the bank of the river. The trees will improve the stability and appearance of the riverbank and minimize erosion. By planting the trees, the Commission hopes to restore and expand natural habitats for numerous birds and native riverbank trees.

“We truly appreciate the donation provided to our organization by Allegheny Energy,” said Steve Spilatro, Tree Commission Chairman. “These funds will aid us in planting much-needed trees around our coveted riverbanks.”

Marietta is recognized for its location at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers. Every year, thousands of tourists visit the city to attend festivals and celebrations, and the Commission works hard to maintain the riverbank and preserve its environmental quality. The Commission is a non-profit organization consisting of nine community volunteers and other former city officials appointed by the City of Marietta to oversee the maintenance of the city’s urban forest.

Pamela M. Pershing, Allegheny Energy’s Advisor, Strategic Environmental Management, said the Company was pleased to contribute funds to the Marietta tree project. “At Allegheny Energy, we support a long list of environmental stewardship activities in our five-state service territory,” she said. “The Marietta City Tree Commission has in place a well-established strategy for growing greener riverbanks and protecting one of Ohio’s renowned treasures.”

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.