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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy supports 2000 Maryland Envirothon

Hagerstown, Md., May 22, 2000 – Allegheny Energy, through its Environmental Stewardship Team, has donated funds to help support the 2000 Maryland Envirothon.

The contribution will help fund this year's event on June 15, 16, and 17 at the University of Maryland's 4-H Camp in Garrett County, Md. One high school team from each of the 20 counties in Maryland will compete in this year's event. The teams will be judged on their excellence in five different environmental categories, including forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soil, and wetlands.

"We could never plan and execute a successful Envirothon in Maryland without the support of trusted partners like Allegheny Energy," said Craig Hartsock, Co-Chairman, 2000 Maryland Envirothon. "Our Envirothon is unique in that we ask students to complete tasks in a setting outside of the classroom. In this way, they are able to learn invaluable environmental education lessons."

On the first day of Maryland's three-day Envirothon, students will take educational hikes and discuss environmental issues. A training session will be held on the second day to familiarize students with the environmental characteristics of western Maryland. The competition is scheduled for the third day. A first, second, and third-place team will be recognized.

The top teams in the United States and Canada will then compete at the *Canon Envirothon* – the largest high school environmental competition in North America – with a chance for each first-place team member to win a \$2,500 college scholarship.

"Allegheny Energy's environmental stewardship program includes a strong commitment to environmental education," said Pamela M. Pershing, the Company's Advisor, Strategic Environmental Management. "As children across our five-state territory learn more about protecting and preserving our region's environment, they will become better prepared to apply their experiences in our communities far into the future."

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.