

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Rate Change Approved for West Virginia Power Gas Customers**

**Greensburg, Pa., October 31, 2000**—West Virginia Power Gas Service announced today that its rates will increase beginning Nov. 1, due to rising prices for natural gas throughout North America. The monthly bill for a typical West Virginia Power gas customer will increase from \$56.08 to \$61.57, a 9.8 percent increase.

The cost of natural gas has increased by 44 percent in 2000, according to the Federal Energy Information Administration. The portion of West Virginia Power Gas Service's bill known as the "commodity rate" reflects the cost of gas. As a result of higher natural gas costs, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC) on Oct. 11 approved the 9.8 percent increase on the commodity rate. The increase will take effect Nov. 1 and appear on bills beginning in December.

Gas supply costs make up more than 60 percent of a customer's natural gas bill. The cost of gas for West Virginia Power Gas Service is reviewed annually by the PSC and is used purely to recover the expense of acquiring gas supplies. The commodity rate reflects only the cost of the gas and the Company makes no profit on the cost of gas.

The increase in natural gas prices is attributed to an increased demand for natural gas, decreasing gas production, and lower volumes of gas in storage. The market prices for natural gas rose this year along with prices for gasoline, electricity, and oil.

Allegheny Power acquired West Virginia Power Gas Service in January 2000, and, beginning in February 2001, the gas operations will begin doing business as Allegheny Power. Until that time, West Virginia Power Gas Service customers should continue to call the same toll-free numbers as they have in the past. The number for customer service is 1-800-303-0752. The number for gas emergencies is 1-800-303-0357.

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost energy 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](http://www.alleghenypower.com).