

Allen Stagers
Manager, Communications
724-830-5433

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Power's winter weather tips

Greensburg, Pa., December 20, 2000 – As the temperatures fall with winter's arrival, Allegheny Power wants its customers to know that its generation supply, transmission, and distribution systems are working well and the Company does not anticipate any problems meeting the needs of its customers. But Allegheny Power knows that cold weather can place a strain on you and your electric bill.

To help you get through these cold winter days, Allegheny Power offers the following tips to help you conserve energy and keep warm.

- Insulate your home to adequate standards. It's the most important single step toward saving energy in the home.
- Add insulation to your existing home where possible. Your home should have a minimum R-30 insulation in the ceiling or attic.
- Install wood- or metal-frame storm windows to provide a second thickness of glass and a layer of still air that retards heat transmission.
- Replace broken window glass, worn weather stripping, and improperly fitting doors.
- Install a tight-fitting damper and glass doors on your fireplace, and close them when you're not using the fireplace. When dampers are open, they allow the natural draft of chimneys to pull heated air from inside your home in winter.
- Locate your heating thermostat on an inside wall away from windows and doors. Cold drafts will cause the thermostat to keep your heating system running, even when the rest of your house is warm.

-more-

Allegheny Power/cold weather tips
Page two

- Keep the overhead door of an attached garage closed to block cold air from infiltrating your house. Also, keep the connecting door to the house and heated basement closed.
- Close hot-air registers and radiator valves in unused rooms with all types of heating systems, except a heat pump. For zoned systems, such as ceiling cable or baseboard, set the thermostat back in unused areas.
- Make sure draperies and furniture aren't blocking the registers in your house.
- Open draperies on south-facing windows on sunny winter days to take advantage of available solar heat.
- Use bath and kitchen exhaust fans only when needed during the heating season. Fans draw heated air out of your home.
- Set your heating thermostat as low as comfort permits. Each degree over 68 degrees F. can add three percent to the amount of energy needed for heating; each degree below 68 degrees F. can save about the same amount of energy.
- Check your furnace filter at least once a month during the heating season and clean or replace it as needed.
- Add flow restrictors to showerheads and hot water faucets. These inexpensive and easily installed devices reduce the amount of energy and hot water you use.
- Repair leaky faucets promptly. A steady drip can waste gallons of hot water per month.

Allegheny Power wants all customers to use energy wisely. For more information on how you can control your energy bills, call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) and request a copy of the brochure [100 Ways to Control Your Electric Bill](#).

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.

-###-