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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Allegheny Power Receives National Honors For Superior
Right-Of-Way Vegetation Management Program**

INDIANAPOLIS (February 28, 2001) — Allegheny Power, the energy delivery business of Allegheny Energy, Inc., received national honors in early February by earning a *Right-of-Way Vistas* Lines of Distinction Award for excellence in vegetation management practices on utility rights-of-way. The organization was one of five U.S. electric utility companies to receive this award.

Sponsored by Dow AgroSciences LLC (Indianapolis, Ind.), the awards program recognizes companies that provide customers with reliable electricity service through the help of well-rounded vegetation control efforts. Specifically, a panel of third-party industry consultants gave top rankings to Allegheny Power in each of the following categories:

- Operational integrity – Promoting worker safety and service reliability.
- Meeting objectives – Achieving Company financial and business objectives.
- Innovation – Innovative implementing of vegetation control technologies, as well as labor practices and public relations efforts.
- Stewardship – Attaining high standards for product stewardship, regulatory/environmental guidelines, employee training, public education, landowner communications and cooperative efforts with cities, municipalities, wildlife groups, garden clubs, commissions, etc.
- Biodiversity – Improving plant and wildlife habitat, as well as aesthetics, on company rights-of-way.

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“We are proud to accept this award,” stated Jay S. Pifer, President of Allegheny Power. “Maintaining our 69,000 miles of rights-of-way is one of our top priorities to ensure reliable service because trees are the leading cause of power outages. Through modern vegetation management techniques, we can balance the need for vegetation control with measures that enhance the environment.”

“Allegheny Power’s philosophy represents the quality and vision that reinforces the valuable role vegetation managers play in their companies’ overall service reliability, customer service, and public relations efforts,” says Kent Redding, marketing specialist at Dow AgroSciences. “We are proud to be associated with such outstanding work.”

Allegheny Power has a long history of environmental stewardship in conjunction with its right-of-way maintenance program. Allegheny was one of the pioneers in the use of tree growth regulators and in the use of returnable/reusable containers for herbicides. The Company has encouraged partnerships with wildlife groups such as the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to establish game food plots on its rights-of way. In addition, forestry representatives have worked with many communities over the years to educate them about their municipal trees and to work with them on tree replacement programs. Also, Allegheny Power has historically supported the American Forestry Association’s Famous and Historic Trees program, the International Society of Arboriculture Research Trust, the Utility Carbon Forestry Management Program and the Utilitree Carbon Company. Additionally, to ensure all federal, state, and local standards are met, all Allegheny Power Forestry personnel have and maintain pesticide applicator licenses and are Certified Arborists.

Other award recipients include EnergyUnited (Statesville, N.C.), Gainesville Regional Utilities (Gainesville, Fla.), Lakeland Electric (Lakeland, Fla.) and Potomac Electric Power Company (Washington, D.C.).

Right-of-Way Vistas is an industry-service publication distributed five times a year by Dow AgroSciences to more than 15,000 utility, highway, railroad and pipeline right-of-way vegetation managers and contractors across the United States and Canada.

Dow AgroSciences LLC, based in Indianapolis, Ind., USA, is a global leader in providing pest management and biotechnology products that improve the quality and quantity of the earth’s food supply, and contribute to the safety, health and quality of life for the world’s growing population. Dow AgroSciences has approximately 6,000 people in over 50 countries dedicated to its business, and has worldwide sales of more than US \$2 billion. Dow AgroSciences is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company.

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 its web site at www.alleghenypower.com.