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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy's TechConnect Grant Application Deadline Nears
More Than 1,500 Public and Private Schools Are Eligible to Apply for Computer Grants

Hagerstown, Md., April 9, 2001 – Area schools seeking a portion of the \$300,000 in TechConnect Classroom Technology Grants sponsored by Allegheny Energy have until 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 30, to submit a grant proposal, the Company announced today.

Public and private schools, grades kindergarten through 12, are eligible to submit proposals for using the TechConnect grants to purchase computer hardware, printers, servers, and other equipment that focus on science and math instruction. The grants, part of the Company's corporate contributions program, are aimed at enhancing students' access to technology in classrooms throughout the region.

In February, the Company sent more than 1,500 TechConnect grant applications to schools in its five-state area, which includes parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. A committee of educators and business leaders will evaluate the grant proposals and select winning applicants. Allegheny Energy will award 10 TechConnect grants of \$30,000 each to schools during October 2001.

"We are receiving more and more inquiries from schools as our TechConnect grant application deadline gets closer," said Victoria Schaff, Allegheny Energy's Vice President, External Affairs. "We are very excited to be able to assist schools in improving their technology programs in math and science. We want students to be fully prepared with the skills needed to succeed in higher education and beyond."

Allegheny Energy has a legacy of supporting technology in schools, donating more than \$6 million in computers to area schools in the 1980s. Last year, after surveying educators and community leaders throughout the region, the research showed that schools still identified a need for help in providing students with better access to technology, especially in math and science. To assist schools in meeting students' needs, Allegheny Energy created its new TechConnect Program and, in a pilot program last fall, awarded its first \$30,000 TechConnect grant to South Hagerstown High School in Washington County, Md.

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To find out more about the TechConnect Program, visit its web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com/techconnect. This site contains information that describes how to submit a request for proposal, eligibility requirements, application guidelines, and answers to frequently asked questions about TechConnect.

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. The Allegheny Energy family includes *Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC*, which operates and markets competitive retail and wholesale electric generation and operates regulated electric generation for its affiliates; *Allegheny Power*, which delivers electric energy and natural gas to three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; 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.

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