

Guy A. Fletcher
Corporate Communications
Phone: 301-790-6174
Media Hotline: 1-888-233-3583

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Business Leaders Hear Allegheny Energy Chairman's Vision
of Company's Continued Success in Changing Industry**

Hagerstown, Md., April 27, 2001 – Locally headquartered national energy merchant Allegheny Energy, Inc. (**AYE: NYSE**) is actively taking advantage of new opportunities in the changing energy industry and creating value for its shareholders, while building on a 100-year history of providing reliable energy to the region's consumers, Alan J. Noia, Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer told members of the Greater Hagerstown Committee today.

"We are in an industry that is rapidly changing and increasingly competitive," said Noia, guest speaker at the Greater Hagerstown Committee's breakfast meeting at the Four Points Sheraton in Hagerstown. "We hope to dispel the old notion of the staid, conservative utility company. Companies like ours must take advantage of the fresh opportunities of this new era, while never losing sight of our existing strengths, and that's exactly what we're doing."

Noia described how Allegheny is progressing with a three-pronged strategy of building its low-cost generating fleet to national prominence through its Allegheny Energy Supply subsidiary; expanding the reach of its energy delivery business, Allegheny Power, into new markets and products, including natural gas; and seeking continued growth in Allegheny Ventures, which invests in telecommunications, distributed generation, and other projects.

"What we are seeing from Wall Street to Main Street is that our strategy is not just succeeding, but flourishing – for our shareholders, our employees, our customers, and the communities we serve," Noia said.

Noia's remarks came in the same week in which Allegheny Energy announced record first quarter 2001 earnings of \$.91 per share, an increase of 17 percent compared to first quarter 2000 earnings per share of \$.78. Today, the Company reported a public offering of 12.4 million shares of common stock, priced at \$48.25 per share. Allegheny Energy was also recently named

-more-

to industry honor rolls like the *Forbes* “Platinum 400” list, Standard and Poor’s 500 index, the *Barron’s* 500 list, and the *Fortune* 500 list. *Fortune* also listed Allegheny Energy as one of the best investments during 2000, ranking the company 36th in the country for total return to shareholders. Allegheny also exceeded two-thirds of the companies on the *Fortune* index for 10-year return to investors.

“We were pleased to have Mr. Noia share his exciting news about the successes at Allegheny Energy,” said James D. Latimer, Chairman of the Greater Hagerstown Committee. “Our organization of community leaders recognizes the vital role Allegheny Energy plays in the progress of our region.”

The Greater Hagerstown Committee is an organization of business and professional leaders established to meet the needs of the area and enhance the quality of life for all citizens of the region. The Committee works to cooperate with and assist governmental bodies and private organizations to achieve their goals.

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. We have been named to the *Fortune* 500 list, the Standard and Poor’s 500 index, and the *Forbes* “Platinum 400” list. The Allegheny Energy family includes Allegheny Power, which delivers electric energy and natural gas 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, visit our web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com.