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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy supports Friends of the Cheat

Hagerstown, Md., May 1, 2001 – Allegheny Energy, through its Environmental Stewardship Team, has contributed an additional \$5,000 to Friends of the Cheat, an organization devoted to preserving the natural beauty of the Cheat River watershed. In 1999 and 2000, the Company contributed a total of \$7,500 to the conservation organization.

“Friends of the Cheat appreciates Allegheny Energy’s outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship and leadership,” says Corina Haywood, Associate Director, Friends of the Cheat. “The Company has been a loyal supporter of our organization for our six-year history. Its investment will be leveraged into increased participation and financial support for our broad-based effort to address critical issues in the watershed.”

Friends of the Cheat, located in Kingwood, W.Va., is a local, nonprofit watershed conservation organization. Its mission is to restore, preserve, and promote the outstanding natural qualities of the Cheat River watershed.

The Cheat River Festival, one of the organization’s upcoming initiatives, will be held May 4 and 5 in Albright, W.Va. The annual event raises funds to support the development of solutions to the acid mine drainage problems affecting the lower Cheat River watershed. Approximately 70 vendors will offer whitewater and other outdoor equipment, crafts, food, and service information at the festival. A storytelling tent featuring three of West Virginia’s finest storytellers will be a highlight of this year’s event.

“We are pleased to contribute funds to Friends of the Cheat. Allegheny has developed a constructive partnership with this organization to enhance and preserve water quality,” says Richard S. Herd, Allegheny Energy’s Water Resources Manager.

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.