



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Communications Connect launches internet and high-speed data services

Fast, reliable, cost-effective services designed to connect area residents to a high-speed data network

Hagerstown, Md., October 15, 2001 – Allegheny Communications Connect (ACC), the communications subsidiary of Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: AYE), today announced the introduction of its internet and high-speed data services for business and residential customers in Westmoreland County, Pa.

“This is an exciting time for ACC and for the local community as we unveil our internet services for business and residential customers in the Westmoreland County area,” says John W. Flinko, Vice President, Allegheny Communications Connect. “Our suite of internet and high-speed data solutions provides customers with fast, reliable, and cost-effective internet services. We are working to bridge the ‘digital divide’ by bringing a high-speed data network to customers in communities who otherwise would not have access to the latest internet services.”

ACConnect Broadband Wireless Internet Service, one of the Company’s new products, is already available in Greensburg for business customers. Other products and services being offered to businesses in Westmoreland County include **ACConnect Dedicated Internet Access Service**, which is geared specifically to meet the needs of local businesses, and **ACConnect Switched Internet Access**, which provides dial-up service for customers with basic internet needs. ACConnect Dedicated and Switched Internet Access Services are delivered via ACC’s fiber-optic network, which runs throughout Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

“Allegheny Energy has been a part of the community for many years,” adds Flinko. “And now, through ACC, we are offering a new dimension of services to customers, but with the same result – a solid business partnership with reliable products for customers.”

In the months ahead, ACC plans to introduce its products and services to other communities in the Mid-Atlantic region.

For more information about ACC’s suite of internet and high-speed data services, e-mail the Company at sales@acconnect.com, visit www.acconnect.com, or call toll-free at (866) 463-8222.

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. It has 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 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 develops, owns, and operates electric generating facilities and supplies and trades energy and energy related commodities in selected domestic retail and wholesale markets; and *Allegheny Ventures*, which invests in and develops telecommunications and energy-related projects. For more information, visit our web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com.