



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy donates to Greene County for Pittsburgh Voyager's river exploration project

Hagerstown, Md., October 23, 2001 – Allegheny Energy, through its Environmental Stewardship Fund, has donated \$10,000 to help support the creation and implementation of the Pittsburgh Voyager Greene County River Exploration Project. The donation is part of Allegheny Energy's ongoing commitment to environmental education, leadership, and stewardship for the enhancement of the region and its communities.

“Thanks to Allegheny Energy, we will be able to bring the exciting and innovative Pittsburgh Voyager program to Greene County,” said Kevin S. Paul, District Manager of the Greene County Conservation District, which is sponsoring the river exploration project. “Pittsburgh Voyager provides a unique, hands-on learning experience for students and teachers of all ages, and I am very excited about making this program available to our county's students.”

Pittsburgh Voyager is a non-profit science education organization that develops learning opportunities through adventure-based programs using the region's natural resources. The Voyager program seeks to:

- Make students aware of the links between science, mathematics, technology, and society;
- Enhance students' analytical and problem-solving skills;
- Help students understand the environment and instill in them a sense of environmental stewardship;
- Develop within students an appreciation for the history and geography of the Three Rivers region and its relationship to present-day western Pennsylvania; and
- Provide opportunities for students to develop interpersonal skills such as teamwork, effective communication, and leadership.

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“Allegheny Energy strongly supports environmental education as a key to preserving our natural resources,” said Pamela M. Pershing, the Company’s Advisor, Strategic Environmental Management. “We especially recognize the importance of environmental education for children who will someday become leaders in their communities.”

The Greene County River Exploration Project will operate for two weeks in the spring of 2002. In the first year, it is anticipated that Voyager will enroll 45 students per day in the school component of the project. In the second year, Voyager will be expanded to include one high school class for a more in-depth workshop focusing on water quality studies using streams in Greene County.

Students will participate in a river exploration project and a landside biodiversity study in a nearby green space or along a river trail. Specifically, students will study fundamental ecology concepts by learning to identify niches, habitats, organisms, chemical and physical components, and other factors associated with each environment. These ecosystem elements will then be used to create the connection between the local environment and the surrounding watershed.

“We are grateful to Allegheny Energy for providing this support, which is vital to the project,” said Beth A. O’Toole, Pittsburgh Voyager Executive Director. “It really shows their support for the community in Greene County, as well as their support for education.”

Other sponsors of the Greene County River Exploration Project include the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener program, the League of Women Voters’ Water Resource Education Network grant program, and the Pittsburgh Foundation.

More information is available at www.pittsburghvoyager.org or from Michelle Boucher, Director of Development and Marketing, at 412-231-2864 or mboucher@pittsburghvoyager.org.

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 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 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.