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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Virginia Power natural gas rates to go down

Charleston, W.Va., November 26, 2001 – West Virginia Power Gas Service, doing business as Allegheny Power, received approval from the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC) to reduce rates, effective with December bills. As a result, the Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) will drop from \$7.68 to \$6.00, lowering the total rate from \$10.51 to \$8.83 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf).

The reduced rates are the result of changes in the market price Allegheny Power pays for natural gas. The Company's cost for natural gas is reviewed annually by the PSC, and any changes are passed through to customers. With this adjustment, customers will benefit from current decreases in national market prices. Based on an average winter usage of 13 Mcf per month, the bill for a typical residential natural gas customer will be reduced from \$142.63 to \$120.79, a 15.31 percent decrease. This includes the monthly meter charge of \$6.00. The reduction in the purchased gas rate will also mean lower bills for commercial and industrial customers.

"Natural gas costs are coming down across the country because of increased supply and moderating demand," says Jay S. Pifer, President of Allegheny Power. "We are pleased to see market prices coming down and to be able to pass these savings on to our customers. We also want to reassure customers that we are constantly working to obtain the most stable, competitive prices for the natural gas we purchase."

Winter is just around the corner, and customers will be using more natural gas for heat and hot water. For tips on how to keep warm and hold down energy bills, customers can visit Allegheny Power's web site at www.alleghenypower.com or call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) and request a copy of our free brochure, "100 Ways to Help Control Your Energy Bill."

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost energy to three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. For more information, visit our web site at www.alleghenypower.com.

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