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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Allegheny Energy Transfers 12,000 Acres  
In Canaan Valley, W.Va., to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

*The Conservation Fund plays a vital role in the transfer*

**Hagerstown, Md., February 14, 2002** – Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: AYE) announced today that the Allegheny Energy companies have taken a major step in preserving the unique plant and animal species in West Virginia’s Canaan Valley by selling 12,000 acres of land to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which will use the land to expand the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Conservation Fund, one of the nation’s premier land and water conservation groups, played a vital role in the property transfer. The Conservation Fund facilitated the transaction and played a key intermediary role throughout the acquisition process.

The agreement was reached with the assistance of Sen. Robert C. Byrd and Rep. Alan B. Mollohan, both D-W.Va., The Conservation Fund, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

“Canaan Valley is a very special place,” said Alan J. Noia, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Allegheny Energy. “It is with great pride that we are making this land available to the federal government so that people throughout the region can continue to enjoy this valuable environmental resource. With this transaction, we are confident the acreage will be dedicated to helping preserve the largest freshwater wetland area in central and southern Appalachia.

“Allegheny Energy is committed to environmental stewardship and operating our business with respect for the environment,” Noia continued. “Since our acquisition of the Canaan Valley properties 80 years ago, we have always made them accessible to the public and have worked to manage them properly. Now, it is clearly the highest and best use of this property to be protected by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as part of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.”

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"Thanks to Senator Byrd's and Congressman Mollohan's leadership and Allegheny Energy's commitment, we are celebrating this important addition to the nation's 500th Wildlife Refuge. The Fund was pleased to help Allegheny and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service find the common ground that made today's acquisition successful. At Canaan Valley and at special places across the nation, we use our experience with corporations and public agencies to find innovative, workable conservation solutions," said Lawrence A. Selzer, president of The Conservation Fund.

"This is an extraordinary accomplishment for the National Wildlife Refuge System," said Dr. Steve Williams, director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. "Our Refuge and Realty staff in the Northeast Region have done a terrific job in helping to bring this event about. It took a long time, but it was worth it in every respect. This is one of our largest single refuge acquisitions in the Northeast, a place where land with important wildlife values is at a premium. Allegheny Energy is to be commended for their willingness to conserve the marvelous geological and biological treasure that is Canaan Valley. The refuge will provide wonderful opportunities for all Americans to share this unique place and the diverse wildlife resources that make their home there."

"The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest and most diverse freshwater wetland areas in central and southern Appalachia," Senator Byrd said. "This agreement between Allegheny Energy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will expand a West Virginia jewel and an American treasure. It will provide important new resources for the facility and broaden what already is one of the nation's most diverse ecological communities."

"These 12,000 acres are a unique resource and, as such, are a welcome addition to the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Placing them in public ownership will enhance the refuge and ensure that its unique ecosystem can be conserved and enjoyed for generations to come," Congressman Mollohan said. "Allegheny Energy's respect for this resource, together with the assistance of The Conservation Fund, have brought us closer to achieving Senator Byrd's vision of the Canaan Valley as a jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System."

Canaan Valley's elevation makes it the highest valley in the eastern United States. It contains one of the largest and healthiest freshwater stream and marsh ecosystems in the Appalachian Mountains, supporting populations of species not normally found in the region, including the endangered Virginia northern flying squirrel and the Cheat Mountain salamander.

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established, with assistance from The Conservation Fund, on August 11, 1994, and became the 500th refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The refuge's goal is to preserve 24,000 acres of fragile wetlands and unique habitats. To date, more than 3,240 acres have been purchased.

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A *Fortune* 500 company, Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a dynamic leader in the energy industry. A strong, flexible, integrated company, we create value for shareholders by maintaining our balanced portfolio of energy-related businesses and advancing our proven strategy of disciplined growth. The Allegheny Energy family includes two principal businesses – Allegheny Energy Supply and Allegheny Power. Allegheny Energy Supply develops, owns, and operates electric generating facilities and supplies and trades energy and energy-related commodities in selected domestic retail and wholesale markets. Allegheny Power operates two lines of business, including a regulated utility that delivers low-cost, reliable electric and natural gas service to about three million people in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia and a growth business that markets premium products and services, including data and fiber services and distributed generation. With headquarters in Hagerstown, Md., Allegheny Energy is included on the Standard and Poor’s 500 index, the *Barron’s* 500 list, and the *Forbes* “Platinum 400” list of America’s leading companies. Information is available at [www.alleghenyenergy.com](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).

The Conservation Fund is a non-profit organization headquartered in Arlington, Va., that acts to protect the nation’s legacy of land and water resources in partnership with other organizations, public agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals. For more information, visit [www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org).

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American public. For more information, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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**Satellite Uplink for Allegheny Energy B-Roll:**

Thursday, February 14, 2002	Friday, February 15, 2002	Friday, February 15, 2002
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (EST)	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (EST)	3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (EST)
AMC2 Transponder 2 C-Band	Telstar 6 Transponder 15 C-Band	Galaxy 11 Transponder 20 C-Band
Downlink Frequency 3740 Horizontal	Downlink Frequency 4000 Vertical	Downlink Frequency 4100 Vertical

If you have any technical questions or problems with the satellite feed for B-Roll, please call Brett Curran at (212) 627-5622.

Photographs of Canaan Valley are available at Allegheny Energy’s Online Newsroom, at <http://www.alleghenyenergy.com/newsroom>. Click on the photographs link under the Image Gallery heading.