



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy donates \$1,500 to the Appalachian Trail Conference

Hagerstown, Md., March 7, 2002 – Allegheny Energy, through its Environmental Stewardship Fund, has donated \$1,500 to the Appalachian Trail Conference to help manage and protect the 2,168-mile Appalachian Trail. 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.

“By supporting the Appalachian Trail Conference, Allegheny Energy is supporting our mission to ensure the environmental protection and resource preservation of the Appalachian Trail,” said Brian King, Director of Public Affairs, Appalachian Trail Conference. “Generous gifts from corporations such as Allegheny Energy support a variety of programs, including the Threatened and Endangered Species program.”

Established in 1925, the Appalachian Trail Conference helps preserve the trail for future generations. Each year, approximately 4,600 volunteers dedicate more than 200,000 hours to maintain the trail, which extends from Maine to Georgia. Four million users access the trail annually. Programs include the Ridgerunner-Caretaker program, Volunteer Trail Crews, the Threatened and Endangered Species program, Grants-for-Outreach, and the Appalachian Trail Conference’s Land Trust.

“Allegheny Energy strongly supports preserving our natural resources,” said Pamela Pershing, the Company’s Advisor, Strategic Environmental Management. “We especially recognize the importance of the Appalachian Trail Conference in its role as protector and educator of America’s premier hiking trail.”

More information is available from the Appalachian Trail Conference at www.appalachiantrail.org.

Allegheny Energy is an integrated *Fortune* 500 energy company with a balanced portfolio of businesses, including Allegheny Energy Supply, a national energy merchant which owns and operates electric generating facilities and supplies energy and energy-related commodities in selected domestic retail and wholesale markets; Allegheny Power, which delivers low-cost, reliable electric and natural gas service to about three million people in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; and a business segment offering fiber-optic and data services, energy procurement and management, and energy services. 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 best big companies. Information is available at www.alleghenyenergy.com.