

Contact: Guy A. Fletcher
Senior Writer
Phone: 301-790-6174
Media Hotline: 1-888-233-3583

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy's TechConnect Grant Application Deadline Nears

More Than 1,500 Public and Private Schools are Eligible to Apply for Computer Grants

Hagerstown, Md., April 12, 2002 – Area schools seeking a portion of the \$300,000 in TechConnect Classroom Technology Grants sponsored by Allegheny Energy have until Tuesday, April 30, to submit a grant proposal, the Company announced today.

“We are continuing to receive many inquiries from schools as our TechConnect grant application deadline nears,” said Bryan G. Moorhouse, Allegheny Energy’s Vice President, State Affairs. “Last year, we were pleased when more than 200 schools submitted grant proposals. The grants can help schools improve their technology programs in math and science, which will prepare students with the skills needed to succeed in higher education and beyond.”

The \$300,000 TechConnect Grant Program, the cornerstone of the Company’s corporate contributions program, is aimed at enhancing students’ access to technology in classrooms throughout the region. Public and private schools, grades kindergarten through 12, are eligible to submit proposals for using the TechConnect grants to purchase computer hardware, printers, servers, and other equipment that will help enhance science and math instruction.

In 2001, the first full year of the program, the Company awarded 10 TechConnect grants of \$30,000 each to schools in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Continuing with that success, this year the Company sent more than 1,500 TechConnect grant applications to schools in its five-state area, which includes parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

A committee of educators and business leaders will evaluate the grant proposals and select winning applicants. Allegheny Energy will award 10 TechConnect grants of \$30,000 each to schools this fall.

-more-

Allegheny Energy has a legacy of supporting technology in schools, donating more than \$6 million in computers to area schools in the 1980s. Research from recent surveys among educators and community leaders throughout the region has shown that schools have identified a need in providing students with better access to technology, especially in math and science.

To find out more about the TechConnect Program, visit its web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com/Communities/TechConnect. This site contains information that describes how to submit a request for a proposal, eligibility requirements, application guidelines, and answers to frequently asked questions about TechConnect.

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.