



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Michael A. Grandillo  
Specialist, Communications (Supply)  
(412) 858-1629  
Media Hotline: 1-888-233-3583

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Allegheny Energy Donates \$10,000 to Proposed Penn State University Air Quality Project**

**Hagerstown, Md., April 16, 2002** – Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: AYE) was recognized today for making a \$10,000 donation to Penn State University that will be used to help build the school's new Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center. The donation was made through the Company's Environmental Stewardship Fund and is part of Allegheny Energy's ongoing commitment to environmental education, leadership, and stewardship for the enhancement of the region and its communities.

"We are excited about the possibilities that the Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center represents for studying the effects of air emissions on vegetation, and we appreciate Allegheny Energy's interest in the project," said Dr. John Skelly, Professor of Plant Pathology at Penn State. "Without the support of companies like Allegheny, this first-class learning and demonstration facility would not have made it off the drawing board, and the crucial information we will gain from it would have been lost for future generations."

The Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center will be located near the central area of the future Penn State Arboretum. It will include a seasonally interactive display of air quality monitoring instrumentation, highlighting the most up-to-date air quality monitoring equipment for determining air quality measurements and reporting methods. Other features will include self-guided walkways through gardens of plant species sensitive to air emissions (bioindicator plants), exhibitions of innovative techniques for demonstrating the effects of air emissions on plants, displays of recent research findings, and industry-supported displays featuring groundbreaking emission abatement technologies.

Allegheny Energy was recognized for its donation as part of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Pollution Workshop being hosted by the University's Air Pollution and Forest Effects Research Programs. The workshop, scheduled to run through April 18, includes a symposium on the use of native plants as ozone air emission detectors, a first look at plans for the new Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center, and a field trip to an electric power generating station.

-more-

“Over the last 30 years, Dr. Skelly and Penn State University, both individually and working together, have made valuable contributions to the science and literature available today to help society better understand the effects of air emissions on vegetation,” said Larry Myers, Environmental Policy Director, Allegheny Energy Supply, and guest speaker at the workshop. “Providing a hands-on facility, like the new Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center, adds a whole new dimension to education and outreach possibilities, and Allegheny is proud to be a part of this groundbreaking project.”

Other supporters of the Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center include the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Bureau of Air Quality, Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences and The Environmental Research Institute, and Reliant Energy, Inc.

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](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).