



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Power Dedicates New Natural Gas Training Center in Charleston, W.Va.

Greensburg, Pa., August 5, 2002 – Allegheny Power recently celebrated the official opening of a new natural gas employee training center in Charleston, W.Va. The five-acre facility, located on Barlow Drive, will provide planned training programs for approximately 350 employees annually.

“We are excited about the opening of the natural gas training center because it is the first of its kind in the state,” said Jay S. Pifer, President of Allegheny Power. “The training center will enable us to provide the most advanced training coupled with the latest technology available in the natural gas industry. This training center is another example of our continued commitment to quality customer service and safety.”

The training center features a simulated neighborhood that will allow employees to take information taught in the classroom setting and apply it to mock situations. Training programs will include: new employee orientation; service operations; measurement and regulation; leak survey, detection, and repair; corrosion; operator qualification evaluations; and gas compliance training.

The center will also offer specialized training in cathodic protection, a technique used to prevent external corrosion of a metal surface. Field training will include pipeline detection, pipeline installation, corrosion detection, leakage detection, and regulator and measurement training. Allegheny Power serves approximately 240,000 natural gas customers in West Virginia.

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 the Company’s web site at www.alleghenypower.com.

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