



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Power, Allegany County Department of Social Services Sponsor Community Energy Fund

Hagerstown, Md., December 10, 2002 – Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy Company, for the 12th consecutive year is joining the Allegany County Department of Social Services in the Cumberland, Md., area in sponsoring the Community Energy Fund to help customers in need pay winter energy bills.

When you contribute to the Community Energy Fund, you are helping to provide assistance to qualifying customers who need help paying higher heating bills during the winter months. During the 2001-2002 winter heating season, more than \$168,000 was credited to the electric bills of more than 1,000 customers in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. Since the program's inception in 1991, Allegheny Power and its customers have contributed more than \$1 million and helped to pay more than 8,500 energy bills.

Allegheny Power customers are currently receiving mailers for the fund with their electric bills. To contribute, make checks payable to the Community Energy Fund and mail in the envelope provided to the Allegany County Department of Social Services. The Allegany County Department of Social Services identifies residential customers in Allegany County who are in need and qualify for the program.

For more information about the Community Energy Fund, call Allegheny Power's toll-free Customer Service Center at 1-800-ALLEGHENY (1-800-255-3443) or write to the Allegany County Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 1420, Cumberland, Md., 21501.

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 our web site at www.alleghenypower.com.

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