



NEWS RELEASE

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Allen Stagers
Manager, Communications
Media Hotline: 1-888-233-3583

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Power Continues Efforts to Restore Electric Service to Customers Following Severe Ice Storm

More than 62,000 customers out of power

Hagerstown, Md., December 12, 2002 -- Allegheny Power crews have been working around the clock to restore electric service to customers and to repair damage to its electrical system caused by a severe ice storm that struck western Maryland, southcentral Pennsylvania, northern Virginia, and eastern West Virginia Wednesday. As of 8:00 a.m. today, Allegheny Power estimated that more than 62,000 customers remain without power. The Company has called in additional line crews, right-of-way maintenance crews, and service and support personnel to assist in the restoration effort.

“Allegheny Power will be working around the clock until power is fully restored,” said Jim Haney, Allegheny Power Vice President. “Ice storms can be particularly devastating, and this is one of the worst ice storms we’ve ever experienced in this region. Our crews have been working since the storm began, and we are bringing in additional repair crews from other Allegheny Power locations and neighboring utility companies to assist in the restoration efforts. Since the storm began, we have restored power to nearly 37,000 customers.”

Haney further stated, “Today, Allegheny Power crews are working to both restore power and assess the damage to prepare a better estimate of restoration times for our customers. Being without power is difficult for our customers, and we appreciate their patience. While we expect to restore service to a significant number of customers today, with the amount of damage that we have, we know that we may have a significant number of customers out of service into tomorrow and perhaps some without power into the weekend. It remains our goal to restore service to all of our customers just as quickly as we can.”

Power outages from ice storms are the result of ice weighing down trees and tree limbs, causing limbs to break off and trees to lean into power lines. The fact that the ice is still on the trees is creating much more damage, and new outages are occurring as the trees continue to break and fall.

Allegheny Power customers who have not reported their power out should call the Company’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) as soon as possible. The best way for customers to report a power outage is through Allegheny Power’s automated, outage-reporting system.

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 about Allegheny, visit our web site at www.alleghenypower.com.

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