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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Equipment Testing to Take Place at Allegheny Energy Facility in Springdale**

**Hagerstown, Md., February 19, 2003** – Allegheny Energy Supply, a subsidiary of Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: AYE), announced today that equipment testing is expected to take place in February and March in preparation for the start-up of Allegheny Energy Units 3, 4 & 5, a 540-megawatt natural gas-fired electric generating facility under construction in Springdale, Pa.

Testing of the natural gas lines is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 22, while testing of the combustion turbine generating system is slated to begin the week of March 17, said James P. Garlick, Vice President, Production Services, for Allegheny Energy Supply.

“The gas line tests will occur at regular intervals from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday,” said Garlick. “Residents may hear loud, high-pitched noises during that time, but they are normal by-products of the process and should not alarm residents. In addition, we are working closely with local government and emergency management officials to keep them informed of the testing schedule in case questions arise.”

Tests on the combustion turbine generating system will occur over a period of several weeks beginning in mid-March. Residents may notice a visible emission coming from the chimney when the generating system is first started, noted Garlick. There will also be a low-level rumbling noise that accompanies the 24-hour testing required for the steam lines.

“We would like to emphasize to residents that the conditions they may hear or observe are unique to the testing process for the facility and will not occur under normal operating conditions,” said Garlick.

Both testing schedules are subject to weather conditions and will be rescheduled if necessary. Residents who have questions about the testing may call (724) 274-3654 beginning on February 22 for more information.

Garlick noted that the plant could be in commercial operation by summer if the equipment testing goes well. More than 500 craftworkers have been involved in the construction of the facility, which began in July 2001. Approximately 25 full-time workers will be employed at the plant when it goes into operation.

With headquarters in Hagerstown, Md., Allegheny Energy is an integrated energy company with a balanced portfolio of businesses, including Allegheny Energy Supply, 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 offering fiber-optic and data services. More information about the Company is available at [www.alleghenyenergy.com](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).