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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Power preparing for Hurricane Isabel

Greensburg, Pa., September 17, 2003 – Allegheny Power is currently tracking Hurricane Isabel and making preparations for extreme weather, with associated high winds, to strike its service area later this week. Storms of this magnitude can cause widespread, extended electrical outages.

Allegheny Power is preparing for the storm by ensuring that repair and support personnel are ready to respond to outages, stocking inventories of storm supplies, arranging with vendors for additional materials and supplies, and participating in conference calls with other electric utility companies in the region to coordinate assistance.

Based on Hurricane Isabel's current projected track, it is expected to reach the area we serve late Thursday.

Allegheny Power recommends that customers prepare for a major weather event by putting together a storm emergency kit, which would include:

- Spare batteries for flashlights, clocks, and radios.
- A fresh supply of water, especially if you rely on well water.
- A supply of canned and other non-refrigerated foods.

Allegheny Power also reminds customers that if they have health problems or are dependent on home medical equipment, they may need to make arrangements in advance for shelter someplace other than their homes. Also, prescription medications should be filled prior to the storm's arrival.

If Isabel's storms cause power outages, Allegheny Power reminds its customers to call 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) to report outages or electrical emergencies, such as downed wires. The Company's outage reporting system can handle thousands of calls per hour, and using the interactive voice response system is the quickest way to report an outage.

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In addition, Allegheny Power cautions everyone to stay away from downed power lines and keep pets and children away from them as well. Always assume downed lines are energized. If the power goes out:

- Turn off major appliances, such as heat pumps, water heaters, and stoves. Unplug sensitive equipment, such as TV's, stereos, microwaves, and computers to prevent an overload when power is restored.
- Leave one lamp or light on so you can tell when power is restored.
- Open refrigerators and freezers as little as possible to keep contents cold.
- Make sure the area is adequately ventilated if using portable or camp-type stoves or lanterns for cooking and lighting.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions if you use a generator. Allegheny Power recommends hooking appliances directly to the generator, using properly sized extension cords. If you hook your generator directly into your home's electrical system, turn off your home's main circuit breaker to avoid stray voltage from going out on power lines and endangering Allegheny Power crews.

Allegheny Power's comprehensive storm plan allows it to quickly mobilize crews and equipment to respond to storm-related outages, re-deploying company and contractor crews within its service area on short notice to focus extra resources in affected areas. In addition, Allegheny Power can also call upon workers and contractors from other electric utility companies as part of mutual aid agreements.

As with all storm-related outages, Allegheny Power first assesses the damage, develops work plans and passes on estimated restoration time to customers through the Customer Service Center. Priority in restoration is given to hospitals, police departments, and other services essential to health and safety. Allegheny Power begins restoring power by focusing first on the transmission and main distribution lines and substations. This restores power to the largest number of customers as quickly as possible. Once substations and transmission and main distribution lines are repaired Allegheny Power focuses all its crews on restoring service to tap lines and service wires for individual homes and businesses.

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.alleghenyenergy.com.

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