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Allen Stagers
Manager, Communications
Phone: 724-830-5433
Media Hotline: 1-888-233-3583

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Allegheny Power completes Hurricane Isabel restoration
*Provides assistance to other utilities***

Greensburg, Pa., September 25, 2003 – Allegheny Power has completed restoring power to more than 239,000 customers who lost electric service as a result of Hurricane Isabel—the largest restoration-of-service effort in its history. A workforce of more than 2,100 field employees worked around-the-clock to repair and rebuild damaged lines and equipment. At the same time, more than 450 administrative personnel provided customer and essential support services.

“We thank our customers for their patience and understanding,” stated Joseph H. Richardson, President of Allegheny Power. “We know this past week has been very difficult for our customers who were without power for several days. In response, our dedicated employees, with the assistance of other utilities and utility contractors, met the challenge and worked 16-hour shifts until power was restored. Now that all of our customers are back in service, we’re releasing crews and sending some of our personnel to Virginia to assist Dominion Virginia Power, which is continuing to restore service after Isabel.”

Hurricane Isabel caused more than 239,000 power outages across a large portion of Allegheny Power’s eastern service territory in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Significant damage occurred to Company facilities, such as poles, lines, and equipment, from the high winds. In some areas, lines had to be rebuilt, rather than repaired. Throughout the region, flooding, high water, and washed out roads limited or temporarily prevented access to make needed repairs.

As part of Allegheny Power's comprehensive storm plan, the Company quickly re-deployed Company and contractor crews within its service area to the affected areas. In addition, Allegheny Power also called upon workers and contractors from other electric utility companies as part of mutual aid agreements. “On behalf of Allegheny Power and its customers, I would like to personally express our sincere appreciation to the companies that provided assistance when we really needed it,” Richardson stated.

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Assisting Allegheny Power were: electric utility companies Consumers Energy and Duquesne Light Company; electric utility contractors Asplundh, C.W. Wright, Everhart & Hoover, J.R. Wyles, Kent Power, Pike Electric, and Quality Contracting; utility forestry services Asplundh and Townsend Tree; and helicopter services Aerial Solutions and Agrotors.

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost energy to four 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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