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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Allegheny Power's winter weather tips**

**Greensburg, Pa., December 12, 2003** – As the temperatures fall with the first winter blast of cold air, Allegheny Power wants its customers to know that its gas and electric systems are working well and the Company does not anticipate any problems meeting the needs of its customers. But Allegheny Power knows that cold weather can place a strain on you and your energy bill.

To help you get through these cold winter days, Allegheny Power offers the following tips to help you conserve energy and keep warm.

- Insulate your home to adequate standards. It's the most important single step toward saving energy in the home.
- Add insulation to your existing home where possible. Your home should have a minimum R-30 insulation in the ceiling or attic.
- Install wood- or metal-frame storm windows to provide a second thickness of glass and a layer of still air that retards heat transmission.
- Replace broken window glass, worn weather stripping, and improperly fitting doors.
- Install a tight-fitting damper and glass doors on your fireplace, and close them when you're not using the fireplace. When dampers are open, they allow the natural draft of chimneys to pull heated air from inside your home in winter.
- Locate your heating thermostat on an inside wall away from windows and doors. Cold drafts will cause the thermostat to keep your heating system running, even when the rest of your house is warm.
- Keep the overhead door of an attached garage closed to block cold air from infiltrating your house. Also, keep the connecting door to the house and heated basement closed.

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- Close hot-air registers and radiator valves in unused rooms with all types of heating systems, except a heat pump. For zoned systems, such as ceiling cable or baseboard, set the thermostat back in unused areas.
- Make sure draperies and furniture aren't blocking the registers in your house.
- Open draperies on south-facing windows on sunny winter days to take advantage of available solar heat.
- Use bath and kitchen exhaust fans only when needed during the heating season. Fans draw heated air out of your home.
- Set your heating thermostat as low as comfort permits. Each degree over 68 degrees F. can add three percent to the amount of energy needed for heating; each degree below 68 degrees F. can save about the same amount of energy.
- Check your furnace filter at least once a month during the heating season and clean or replace it as needed.
- Add flow restrictors to showerheads and hot water faucets. These inexpensive and easily installed devices reduce the amount of energy and hot water you use. Repair leaky faucets promptly. A steady drip can waste gallons of hot water per month.
- You should have your gas heating equipment and lines checked annually by a certified HVAC technician. Gas appliances work most effectively **and safely** when they are serviced annually by a qualified technician.

Allegheny Power wants all customers to use energy wisely. For more information on how you can control your energy bills, call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) and request a copy of the brochure *100 Ways to Control Your Energy Bill* or visit our web site at [www.alleghenypower.com](http://www.alleghenypower.com).

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost, reliable electric and natural gas service to about four million people in parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Ohio. For more information about Allegheny, visit our web site at [www.alleghenypower.com](http://www.alleghenypower.com).

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