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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Power completes Hurricane Ivan restoration

Greensburg, Pa., September 22, 2004 – Allegheny Power has completed restoring power to the more than 171,000 customers who lost electric service as a result of Hurricane Ivan – one of the largest restoration-of-service efforts in its history. A workforce of more than 1,281 field employees worked around-the-clock to repair and rebuild damaged lines and equipment. At the same time, more than 298 administrative personnel provided customer and essential support services.

“We know that these past several days have been very difficult for our customers who were without power, and we thank them for their patience and understanding,” said Joseph H. Richardson, President of Allegheny Power. “The remnants of Hurricane Ivan caused tremendous damage and widespread outages across our service territory. In response, our dedicated employees, with the assistance of other utilities and utility contractors, met the challenge and worked around the clock until power was restored.”

Hurricane Ivan caused more than 171,000 power outages in portions of Allegheny Power’s service territory in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio. Significant damage occurred to company facilities, such as poles, lines and equipment, from the high winds and heavy rains. In some areas, lines had to be rebuilt, rather than repaired. The hardest hit areas were in southwestern Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia, where severe 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 territory 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 extend our deepest gratitude to the many companies that provided assistance in our time of need,” Richardson added

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Assisting Allegheny Power in storm restoration efforts were: electric utility companies Dominion and PEPCO; electric utility contractors C. W. Wright, Everhart & Hoover, J. R. Wyles, Pike Electric, Rural Electric Association, Northwestern Rural Electric Coop and United Electric Coop; utility forestry service Asplundh; and helicopter services L. J. Aviation and Agrotors.

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost reliable electric and natural gas service to about four million people in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio. More information about Allegheny Energy is available at www.alleghenyenergy.com.