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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Allegheny Power Reminds Customers to Prepare Their Homes for Winter Weather**

**GREENSBURG, Pa., October 10, 2005** – Cold weather is just around the corner, and Allegheny Power would like to remind its customers that they can take easy, inexpensive steps to reduce household energy consumption and lower their energy bills this winter.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the most common places where air escapes in homes are: floors, walls and ceilings, 31 percent; ducts, 15 percent; the fireplace, 14 percent; plumbing, 13 percent; doors, 11 percent; and windows, 10 percent.

Customers can seal leaks around doors, windows and other openings, such as pipes or ducts, with caulk or weather-stripping. Reducing air leaks could cut as much as 10 percent from an average household's monthly energy bill.

To help you prepare your home for falling temperatures and conserve energy, Allegheny offers the following tips:

- Make sure your home is insulated to adequate standards. It's the single most important step toward saving energy in your 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.

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- 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.

The following tips can help you conserve energy during the winter season:

- 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.
- 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 F can add three percent to the amount of energy needed for heating; each degree below 68 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.

For more information on how you can get your home ready for winter and control your energy bill, call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) and request the brochure "100 Ways to Control Your Energy Bill," and the fact sheet, "Energy Efficiency Tips to Make Your Home More Comfortable." Or, you can visit our web site at [www.alleghenypower.com](http://www.alleghenypower.com).

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](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).