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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Allegheny Power Reminds Customers to be Prepared  
for Summer Storms**

**GREENSBURG, Pa., May 31, 2005** – During this time of year, severe weather can form quickly and strike without warning. Allegheny Power would like to remind its customers that it is a good idea to prepare in advance for summer storms. Wind and lightning associated with these storms can be destructive and cause power outages.

Allegheny recommends that customers prepare for possible power outages by putting together a storm emergency kit. A typical emergency kit should include: flashlights, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, matches and a supply of candles, water for drinking and cooking, and a supply of canned and other non-perishable foods.

Customers that suffer from health problems or are dependent on home medical equipment should make arrangements for shelter some place other than their homes. In addition, prescription medications should be filled prior to the arrival of expected severe weather.

Violent weather can also knock down power lines, so it is important to remember to never touch a downed power line or any object that is in contact with one. Always assume that fallen wires are energized and keep clear of them. Pay particular attention to any children or pets that may be in the area to make sure that they stay away from downed lines, as well.

Allegheny Power customers should call 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) to report outages or electrical emergencies – such as downed wires – during severe weather events. The company's outage reporting system, which uses interactive voice response software, can handle thousands of calls per hour and is the quickest way to report an outage.

If the power goes out:

- Turn off major appliances (heat pumps, water heaters, stoves, etc.) and unplug sensitive electronic equipment (TV's, computers, microwaves, etc.) to prevent an overload when power is restored.

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- 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 prior to using portable or camp-type stoves or lanterns for cooking and lighting.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator. Appliances should be connected directly to the generator using properly sized extension cords. If the generator is wired into the home's electrical system, a double-throw transfer switch is required to prevent 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, redeploying company and contractor crews within its service area on short notice to focus extra resources in affected areas. In addition, Allegheny Power can also request assistance from 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 estimates restoration times once the cause of the outage is known. 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 concentrates all of its crews on restoring service to tap lines and service wires for individual homes and businesses.

For more information about making preparations for power outages caused by severe weather, call 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) and request a copy of our "What to Do if the Lights Go Out" brochure, or visit our web site at [www.alleghenypower.com](http://www.alleghenypower.com).

### **Allegheny Energy**

Headquartered in Greensburg, Pa., Allegheny Energy is an investor-owned utility consisting of two major businesses. Allegheny Energy Supply owns and operates electric generating facilities, and Allegheny Power delivers low-cost, reliable electric service to customers in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.alleghenyenergy.com](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).