



NEWS RELEASE

800 Cabin Hill Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601-1689

Media contact:

Allen Stagers
Manager, External Communications
Phone: (724) 830-5433
Media Hotline: 1-888-233-3583
E-mail: astagge@alleghenyenergy.com

Investor contact:

Max Kuniansky
Executive Director, Investor Relations
and Corporate Communications
Phone: (724) 838-6895
E-mail: mkunian@alleghenyenergy.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Power Tops National Ranking in Customer Satisfaction

GREENSBURG, Pa., May 23, 2006 – Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: **AYE**) announced today that its electric delivery subsidiary, Allegheny Power, ranked highest in customer satisfaction among the largest U.S. electric utilities in a recent national study.

Released last week, the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) is an independent survey of residential customers produced by the University of Michigan in partnership with the American Society for Quality and CFI Group. Allegheny shares the top spot in electric service with Duke Energy and Southern Company, having scored 80 out of a possible 100.

The 2006 study includes rankings for 30 of the largest investor-owned gas and electric companies. Allegheny Power has historically scored high nationally and regionally in residential customer satisfaction — last achieving the highest ranking in ACSI's 2002 study for its gas and electric service.

“In our progress toward becoming a high performance organization, this is one indication we are delivering the services our customers consider important,” said Joseph H. Richardson, President of Allegheny Power. “It’s gratifying to see our employees’ hard work and dedication reflected in customer satisfaction.”

Allegheny Power

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost energy to 1.5 million people in parts of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. For more information about Allegheny, visit our web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

In addition to historical information, this release contains a number of "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as anticipate, expect, project, intend, plan, believe, and words and terms of similar substance used in connection with any discussion of future plans, actions, or events identify forward-looking statements. These include statements with respect to: rate regulation and the status of retail generation service supply competition in states served by Allegheny Energy's distribution business, Allegheny Power; financing plans; demand for energy and the cost and availability of raw materials, including coal; provider-of-last-resort and power supply contracts; results of litigation; results of operations; internal controls and procedures; capital expenditures; status and condition of plants and equipment; capacity purchase commitments; regulatory matters; and accounting issues. Forward-looking statements involve estimates, expectations and projections and, as a result, are subject to risks and uncertainties. There

can be no assurance that actual results will not materially differ from expectations. Actual results have varied materially and unpredictably from past expectations. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, among others, the following: plant performance and unplanned outages; changes in the price of power and fuel for electric generation; general economic and business conditions; changes in access to capital markets; complications or other factors that render it difficult or impossible to obtain necessary lender consents or regulatory authorizations on a timely basis; environmental regulations; the results of regulatory proceedings, including proceedings related to rates; changes in industry capacity, development and other activities by Allegheny Energy's competitors; changes in the weather and other natural phenomena; changes in customer switching behavior and their resulting effects on existing and future load requirements; changes in the underlying inputs and assumptions, including market conditions used to estimate the fair values of commodity contracts; changes in laws and regulations applicable to Allegheny Energy, its markets or its activities; the loss of any significant customers or suppliers; dependence on other electric transmission and gas transportation systems and their constraints or availability; changes in PJM, including changes to participant rules and tariffs; the effect of accounting policies issued periodically by accounting standard-setting bodies; and the continuing effects of global instability, terrorism and war. Additional risks and uncertainties are identified and discussed in Allegheny Energy's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

-###-