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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APPALACHIAN POWER REPRESENTATIVES TO HOST OPEN HOUSE FOR POWER GRID IMPROVEMENTS IN SCOTT AND SULLIVAN COUNTIES**

ROANOKE, Va., Oct. 19, 2021 – Appalachian Power representatives plan upgrades to the electric transmission system in Scott County, Virginia and Sullivan County, Tennessee.

The Fort Robinson-Hill Transmission Line Rebuild Project involves rebuilding approximately 14 miles of electric transmission line and upgrading two substations to support the area’s current power demand and improve electric reliability for customers.

“By upgrading this 50-year-old power line to modern standards, we’re able to provide more reliable service to our customers and reduce the temporary outages they experience during frequent maintenance on the line,” said George Porter, Appalachian Power spokesperson.

The rebuild begins at the Fort Robinson Substation located off North Holston River Drive in Sullivan County and travels east, crossing US-23 to the Kyle Hill Substation on Echo Avenue. Routes continue north, crossing the Tennessee-Virginia state line and paralleling US-23 through Weber City to the Moccasin Gap Substation. The rebuild continues on the existing route northwest through Gate City and splits to new proposed routes along Broadwater Avenue for approximately half a mile. The remaining upgrades travel northeast in or near the existing right-of-way, cross Clinch River Highway and end at the Hill Substation located near State Route 862.

Appalachian Power representatives invite community members and landowners in the project area to learn more by attending an in-person or virtual event planned for early November.

**In-person open house:**

- Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 5 - 7 p.m. at Scott County Technical and Career Center, 387 Broadwater Avenue, Gate City.

**Live virtual town halls:**

- Thursday, Nov. 11 at noon & 5 p.m.  
For landowners unable to attend the in-person open house, company representatives are hosting two live virtual town hall events featuring a presentation from the Appalachian Power project team, followed by a Q&A session.

Area landowners can expect to receive a packet in the mail that includes additional project details and a comment card they can return with their feedback. Project representatives invite landowners and community members to participate in these events to learn more about the project, ask questions and share input. Landowners are encouraged to provide input by **Friday, November 19**.

We are committed to keeping you informed about this project while also keeping our customers and employees safe and healthy during COVID-19. Project team members plan to wear face coverings at the in-person open house and encourage those who plan to attend the in-person event to also wear face coverings. For the safety of the community and the project team, those who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or are feeling unwell are asked to please consider attending one of the virtual town halls to learn more about the project.

The project team plans to use input from the community and additional field work to determine a power line route that minimizes impact on the community and environment.

Company representatives expect construction to begin fall 2022 and conclude fall 2024. Additional details are available at **[AppalachianPower.com/FortRobinson-Hill](https://www.appalachianpower.com/FortRobinson-Hill)**.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP's approximately 16,800 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 223,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 30,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,500 megawatts of renewable energy.

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