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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APPALACHIAN POWER ANNOUNCES POWER GRID UPGRADES IN TAZEWELL COUNTY**

ROANOKE, Va., May 19, 2022 – Appalachian Power representatives plan to increase electric reliability by upgrading the power grid serving customers in Tazewell County. Company representatives are hosting in-person open houses for two upcoming projects. The Hockman Substation Project and the Pure Salmon Transmission Improvements Project increase reliability for existing customers and provide support for economic development in the area.

**The Hockman Substation Project involves:**

- Constructing a new substation
- Building about a quarter-mile of 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the new substation to an existing line

The new substation relieves electrical load on the existing system that is currently near capacity with current power demands. The Hockman Substation ensures that area customers continue to receive reliable electric service and experience fewer power interruptions.

**The Pure Salmon Transmission Improvements Project involves:**

- Constructing a new substation
- Building about 2 miles of 138-kV transmission line to connect the new substation to an existing line

The new substation provides a power source for the Pure Salmon Fish Farm to support the customer's electrical needs and increase reliability for existing customers by expanding the area's electrical load capacity.

Appalachian Power representatives plan to host an open house for both projects. There are no formal presentations, so attendees may arrive at any time during the two-hour open houses. Landowners and community members are encouraged to come to the meetings to review project details, talk with project representatives, and provide feedback. Community members who are not able to attend an open house may visit the project websites. The open houses are scheduled as follows:

**Hockman Substation Project**

- **Open House:** Monday, June 6, 5-7 p.m. at Graham Middle School, 1 Academic

Circle, Bluefield, VA 24605

- **Project Website:** [AppalachianPower.com/Hockman](http://AppalachianPower.com/Hockman)

**Pure Salmon Transmission Improvement Project**

- **Open House:** Tuesday, June 7, 5-7 p.m. at Appalachian Events & Arts Center, 112 River Road, Cedar Bluff, VA 24609
- **Project Website:** [AppalachianPower.com/PureSalmon](http://AppalachianPower.com/PureSalmon)

Landowners within the project areas can expect to receive a packet in the mail that includes additional project details and a comment card they can return with their feedback. The project teams plan to use landowner input and additional field work to minimize impacts on the community and environment. Company representatives expect construction to begin on both projects early 2023. Plans call for the Hockman Substation Project to be complete fall 2023 and the Pure Salmon Transmission Improvements Project to be complete late 2024.

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 16,700 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 224,000 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 31,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,900 megawatts of renewable energy.

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