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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AEP OHIO SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE IN MONROE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

GAHANNA, Ohio, March 14, 2017 – AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., Buckeye Power and Washington Electric Cooperative are taking the next step to improve electric service in Marietta and the surrounding area. This includes building a transmission line in Monroe and Washington counties.

To learn more about this project, the public is invited to attend a project open house on March 22 at Marietta High School, 115 Academy Drive, Marietta, Ohio 45750 and on March 23 at Frontier High School, 44870 State Route 7, New Matamoras, Ohio 45767. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The event will run to 7:30 p.m. The informational open house provides residents the opportunity to meet and talk with project representatives. There is no formal presentation. Visitors may come and go at any time during the workshop. Residents can offer input, ask questions of project team members and learn more about the new transmission line.

“This is our opportunity to meet with the residents to discuss this project and its benefits to the community,” said Shawn Malone, project manager for AEP Ohio. “We want to let everyone know how we plan on providing for the energy needs of the region while minimizing the effects on landowners and the environment.”

The Rouse-Devola line will be about 25 miles long, depending on the route selected. The line will likely run through Bethel and Washington townships in Monroe County and Liberty, Ludlow, Independence, Lawrence, Fearing and Muskingum townships in Washington County.

“The improvements to the transmission system planned by AEP will provide more reliable service, reduce power outages, and speed the restoration of power in the event of outages, to the members of Washington Electric Cooperative,” said Jack Bragg, general manager and chief executive officer of Washington Electric Cooperative. “Washington Electric fully supports the replacement of this aging infrastructure by AEP and looks forward to the improved reliability afforded by this investment to our membership”

AEP Ohio plans to invest approximately \$50 million in the Rouse-Bell Ridge-Devola transmission line. Construction is targeted to begin in fall 2019 and be complete by summer 2021.

Additional information about the project, including maps, is available online at AEPOhio.com/Rouse-BellRidge and AEPOhio.com/BellRidge-Devola.

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AEP Ohio is based in Gahanna, Ohio, and is a unit of American Electric Power. AEP Ohio provides electricity to nearly 1.5 million customers. News and information about AEP Ohio can be found at AEPOhio.com.

American Electric Power is one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity and custom energy solutions to nearly 5.4 million customers in 11 states. AEP owns the nation’s largest electricity transmission system, a more than 40,000-mile network that includes more 765-kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined. AEP also operates 224,000 miles of distribution lines. AEP ranks among the nation’s largest generators of electricity, owning approximately 26,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP’s utility units operate as AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana and east Texas). AEP’s headquarters are in Columbus, Ohio.

Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a member-owned electric distribution cooperative serving more than 10,000 members in parts of Washington, Guernsey, Monroe, Noble, Morgan and Athens counties. www.weci.org

Buckeye Power, Inc., is a member-owned generation-and-transmission cooperative providing wholesale power to the 25 distribution cooperatives serving nearly 400,000 members in 77 of Ohio’s 88 counties. www.buckeyepower.com

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